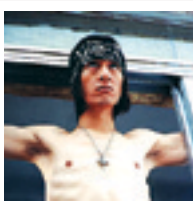


From the first ever inclusion of a rock 'n' roll song in a movie, it has become the perfect soundtrack for teenage tales. **Page 10**



Singapore is justly proud of its reputation as a garden city. **Page 16**



As a blind student, Gao has had to put in more effort to make the same progress as his fellow classmates. **Page 9**

# BEIJING TODAY

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By Hou Mingxin  
The Chinese national football team woke up Wednesday morning to wide acclaim from the national media and the growing realization that a first Asian Cup is within their grasp.

The penalty shoot-out win over Iran in Tuesday night's absorbing semi-final at Beijing Workers' Stadium not only took China into their first Asian Cup final in 20 years, it ended a 10-year losing streak against Iran and extended China's home unbeaten record to 19 games.

On their own, these statistics may not be earth-shattering, but together, they are playing a big part in convincing manager Arie Haan's players to finally shed the inferiority complex that has in the past paralyzed the team just when real success was within reach.

Defending champions Japan will be the rival at tomorrow's final at Worker's Stadium. Japan defeated tournament upstarts Bahrain 4-3 after extra-time in a see-saw semi-final in Jinan, Shandong on Tuesday.

In the past three Asian Cup tournaments, China has never won against Japan, but this time, Haan's team will have the home advantage over their star-absent rivals.

"In the penalty kicks we needed luck," said Haan at a press conference after Tuesday's win. "For us it was like a novel. The scenario was right and we came out the winners."

For millions of Chinese football fans, if the 2004 Asian Cup is a novel, a win in Saturday's final will be the perfect fairytale ending.



Xinhua Photo

## We Need a Perfect Ending!

## Developing a Performance Evaluation System

By Chu Meng  
A report on the release of China's first evaluation system for government performance and results was published last month in *Outlook Weekly*, a journal of current affairs and news. The journal describes the system, developed by the Institute of Personnel Science under the Ministry of Personnel, as a comprehensive and scientific mechanism for judging governmental performance and efficiency.

The evaluation system is intended to set a systematic strategy course for governmental agencies to efficiently meet their responsibilities, to assess whether their programs are really working to accomplish their fundamental goals, and make necessary adjustments to improve governmental performance.

"We are researching this topic in order to legalize and systematize evaluation standards of government performance and results. We want to establish much more scientific and workable supervision methods for the public and the average people to check governmental and service efficiency," said He Fengqiu, team leader of the topic research group on government performance and results of the Institute of Personnel Science, in an interview with *Beijing Today* Tuesday.

He continued, "The two cores of our research topic are the establishment of a more accountable and service-centered government mechanism, and the fulfillment of the public right to supervise and be kept informed."

### Structure of the system

The evaluation system is based on the premise that the role of a

### Government evaluation in the US

In the late 1980s and the early 1990s, the US government found that waste and inefficiency in federal programs undermined citizens' confidence in the government and reduced the federal government's ability to adequately address vital public needs.

The phrase "Government Performance and Results" was the name given to a movement in Washington in 1993 to provide for the establishment of strategic planning and performance measurement of federal governmental functions and efficiency.

The specific aim of the movement was to improve confidence in the capacity of the government, initiate program performance reform with a series of pilot projects and to help federal managers promote service delivery and working efficiency, as well as public accountability. It was cited and enacted as the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 by the US Congress.

government is not to control, but to provide service to the people. Its performance should be evaluated according to whether it can efficiently fulfill its responsibilities and whether the public is satisfied. In other words, the evaluation should depend on to what extent the work by the government meets the needs of society and business.

"The key point of our research is the principle of satisfaction. It is this that most distinguishes this topic from any other administration and management research related to government performance in the past," He Fengqiu said. It is supposed to be the definitive system for governmental performance appraisal, including: economic evaluation - requiring the government to establish awareness of cost; reduction of expenditure - spend less on doing more; efficiency examination - the ratio of the government's input to output; and effectiveness evaluation - quality of organization and the effect on society.

### Successful example

Li Ming, director-general of the Qingdao Supervision Office told *Beijing Today*, "after five years' cooperation with the Beijing-based Institute of Personnel Science, the Qingdao government and its subordinate agencies have made concrete steps in improving performance efficiency. Now that the institute has successfully applied for another research grant, we hope to collaborate with them again, as that would inevitably bring us further benefits."

According to Li Ming, during the course of the project, the local government was first required to develop a five-year strategy plan, including a mission statement, setting clear, long-term goals and objectives that could be substantially measured; establish a primary plan for achieving those goals and objectives; then initiate annual performance plans, providing performance commitments year by year to achieve the desired out-

comes. These plans had to describe specific performance goals and measures and activities that would be carried out during the year, as well as provide a detailed budget.

An annual performance report was compiled at the end of each fiscal year to evaluate progress. "We compiled our annual performance report using performance data submitted by relevant state departments, local functional bodies as well as survey statistics from non-governmental groups," Li Ming explained.

### Government performance evaluation review

Sang Zhulai, former director of topic research at the Institute of Personnel Science, said in an interview published on *Peopledaily.com* Tuesday that a number of government departments at different levels have drafted such indexes, which include indexes of annual economic performance, discharge of duty, openness and efficiency. But experts see some defects in those items. First, many governments list GDP and absorbing investment as their top priority. However, with the promotion of reform of the administrative approval system, it is not appropriate to evaluate governmental performance only on the basis of indexes indicating economic growth.

Moreover, different departments and agencies have functions that are often unrelated and unsuited to rigid evaluation according to fixed standards. At the same time, there are a great many internal evaluations. Those required by superiors, for example, following internal rules and regulations, are not sufficiently open to be conducive to public monitoring and evaluation.

Xu Xianglin, associate professor from Beijing University's School of Government Administration explained to *Beijing News* Tuesday that for many local governments and departments, the main priority is not necessarily related to their actual function. For example, many localities require farmers to grow specific types of economic crops, and base their evaluation on the quantity of this crop harvested or sold. In doing so, they actually exceed their authority. Evaluation based on such figures would therefore produce distorted results.

The Evaluation System of Government Reform was originally initiated by the State Institute of Personnel Science, under the Ministry of Personnel. However Wang Yufei, assistant officer from the Media Communication Section of the ministry's Policy and Law Department declined *Beijing Today's* request for an interview, stating that "the release of the evaluation system was an individual act of our subordinate institute, without our authorization. Therefore, we have no obligation to accept interviews from the media. And we equally cannot provide any authoritative explanations based on this system."

He Fengqiu also emphasized that the system still falls far short of being "a concrete set of governmental regulations or a reform movement. It is nothing more than a scientific research activity within an academic field. It was originally launched in 2001, and will be one and half years before we can claim to have a mature evaluation mechanism for the Chinese government."

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By Zhou Ying

Over 1,200 students and teachers from APEC (Asian and Pacific Economic Co-operation) member economies gathered in Beijing Monday to celebrate the opening of the APEC Youth Science Festival, which runs until Monday (see special report on page 6).

Photo by Chen Bai

## APEC Youth Festival Opens



# Audit Uncovers 8 Billion Yuan in Irregularities

By James Liu

Director of the Beijing Municipal Auditing Bureau Yang Xiaochao delivered the 2003 fiscal audit report to the Beijing Municipal People's Congress last Thursday. The report comes one month after Auditor-general Li Jinhua delivered his report to the National People's Congress Standing Committee revealing the embezzlement of public funds in some government departments.

According to Yang, the audit focused mainly on the implementation of the fiscal budget, tax collection, final accounting of revenue and expenditure of 23 municipal departments, 16 key construction projects, and 15 special funds with a total amount of 38.7 billion yuan. "In general, the Beijing government fulfilled the fiscal budget. However, our audit uncovered some problems," Yang told *Beijing News* Saturday.

One major problem found was that more than 8 billion yuan worth of funding had not been implemented. Of this amount, 4.34 billion yuan in subsidiary funds for the districts and counties was not allocated to related institutions. The municipal Development and Reform Committee budgeted 3.92 billion yuan for infrastructure funding at the beginning of 2003, but these funds were not allocated to any project.

The 4.09 billion yuan education fund was for the most part used properly, however, a quantity of the instruments and equipment purchased by the Education Committee were subsequently found to have quality problems, which caused delays to the teaching schedules. Forestry departments and district fiscal departments withheld 129 million yuan of the ecological protection fund, instead of allocating it to related construction units. In auditing the SARS prevention and donation funds, the bureau found no major violations in the use of the special fund of 1.85 billion yuan, but a small number of health units used 20.05 million yuan of the fund as extra subsidies for medical staff. "The 20.05 million yuan has now been returned," said Yang.

The operational licence for Guangzhou's new Baiyun International Airport officially took effect yesterday. The project, which has cost 19.8 billion yuan, began in August 2000. The initial phase covers an area of some 15 square kilometers and is capable of handling 25 million passengers and 1 million tons of cargo annually. The airport has two runways and boasts the largest cargo station and the largest hangar in the Chinese mainland. The cargo station covers more than 10,000 square meters and the 900-million-yuan hangar covers 96,000 square meters.

Photo by Photocom



## China Avoids Double Taxation on Expats

Overseas people who stay in China for less than a year should pay personal income tax only on income earned within the country, a senior official of the Ministry of Finance said Monday. An official from the ministry's taxation department told Xinhua that China has always observed the international practice of avoiding double taxation on overseas persons working in China. According to Chinese law, both residents and non-residents are subject to income taxation. Non-residents include foreigners and overseas persons from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, who have no residency permit and live in the country less than one year. They account for the majority of expatriates in China. China began to levy personal income tax in 1980. At that time, since most Chinese people's incomes were below the taxable amount, the

majority of people paying personal income tax were non-residents from overseas. The personal income tax system was overhauled in 1994, and uniform tax rates for both Chinese and overseas persons were adopted. As the economy grew and living standards improved, more and more Chinese residents started to pay income tax. In 2003, personal income tax accounted for 6.5 percent of China's total tax revenue, as compared with 1.4 percent in 1994. Chinese and overseas taxpayers paid a total of 141.8 billion yuan (US \$17.1 billion) in income tax. Such tax has become an important source of revenue for the Chinese government, and is used as a leverage to narrow the gap between rich and poor. China now adopts different tax rates and pre-tax deduction rates on various types of personal income. Taxable personal income falls into 11

major categories, including wages, salaries, returns on investment, business profits and proceeds from property disposal. However, the official said the current personal income tax system has many loopholes that can be exploited for tax evasion and fails to fulfill the principle of equal footing and rational burden. He said the government is planning to reform the current personal income tax scheme and try to develop a universal tax rate for all while maintaining differential rates for certain taxable items. However, he noted that inadequate information gathering made it difficult to monitor the real incomes of individuals, and that the development of electronic data collection and processing systems on personal incomes needed to be accelerated. (Xinhuanet)

## CBRC Issues Regulation on Finance Companies

By Hou Mingxin

The China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) Tuesday issued a new regulation on the management of enterprise group finance companies. The regulations will take effect from September, replacing the current ones issued in 2000. The new regulation will lower the threshold for the launch of finance companies by enterprise groups in China. This will enable enterprises to open their own finance subsidiaries to enhance the efficiency of corporate fund management and financing services. Currently, there are about 6,000 enterprise groups in China covering a wide range of industries. Many have expressed a desire to establish their own finance companies, a spokesman for the CBRC said Tuesday. Because of the high market entry threshold of the original regulation, only a few big industrial, energy and transportation corporations have been able to meet the criteria, while most of the other companies and foreign-funded enterprises are excluded. The new rule is expected to change the situation and boost development of enterprise groups as a whole, according to the spokesman. Under the new regulation, wholly foreign-invested investment companies can also launch their own finance companies to give financial support to enterprises in which they have invested. CBRC statistics show that China now has 74 finance companies launched by enterprise groups, with total assets of around 450 billion yuan. However, while offering more incentives, regulators will also be keeping a close eye on the risk management capability of applicants and risk control of the finance companies once established. The financial status of the parent companies and their credibility will be the major criteria for regulators when reviewing applications. The parent companies will also shoulder more liability to guarantee payment to clients should funding problems arise in the finance companies. Finance firms should also guarantee a minimum 10 percent asset adequacy and the ratio of funds used for short-term securities investment in their total assets should not exceed 40 percent. The regulation also prohibits them from accepting outside deposits.

## Shenzhen Seeks Talent in HK

By James Liu

Shenzhen will hold its largest ever job fair in Hong Kong this Sunday, offering more than 3,600 vacancies from 275 units. Among the vacancies, 219 are offered by the governmental departments. This is the first time for Shenzhen to open the doors of its public service organizations to non-mainland residents. A total of 51 public institutions, including Shenzhen Municipal Development and Reform Bureau, Shenzhen Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau and Shenzhen Municipal Planning Bureau aim to attract professionals with international perspective and experience. Chen Anren, director of the Shenzhen Municipal Personnel Bureau, said at a press conference Sunday that the government has not worked out detailed payment standards for the Hong Kong professionals. "Basically, the institutions or the bureaus that hire the staff will be responsible for setting the wages. The pay-

ment level varies from unit to unit, from 60,000 yuan to hundreds of thousands of yuan annually," said Chen. "Shenzhen is in dire need of professionals with international perspective and experience, especially in the finance, logistics and foreign trade sectors," said Vice-mayor Chen Yingchun at the press conference. "Aiming to become an international city, Shenzhen must open its recruitment system, as at present, only 0.1 percent of the city's population are foreigners, far behind the average level of five percent," he said. Almost all financial institutions and companies in Shenzhen have registered for the event, including local branches of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Bank of China, Shenzhen Development Bank and China Merchants Bank. Shenzhen real-estate developer, Kingkey Group, will offer an annual package of US \$500,000 for the position of general manager of its new five-star hotel, the most lucrative package to be offered at the job fair.

## Draft Health Standard Set for Public Servants

By James Liu

The Ministry of Personnel and Ministry of Health last Friday jointly issued a draft standard for public servant recruitment health examinations. Public input is currently being solicited to improve the draft. This first national health standard for hiring public employees is expected to exclude many current discriminatory restrictions and better respect citizens' right to employment. Moreover, the standard-setting process, which enables the public to have more say in deciding the qualifications of public servants, is a progressive move. People can post their suggestions on the official website of the Ministry of Personnel ([www.mop.gov.cn](http://www.mop.gov.cn)) before the deadline for public input on August 31. The 22-clause draft lifts the restrictions on hepatitis carriers, meaning that people who have recovered from acute hepatitis for half a year or recovered from chronic hepatitis for two years will be eligible to become public servants. In the past, different departments and local governments have set their own health standards when hiring. Out of disappointment and anger, some of those rejected have even resorted to violent acts. The most well-known case was that of Zhou Yichao, a college graduate and hepatitis B virus carrier, who killed an official and wounded another in April, 2003 in East China's Zhejiang Province after they rejected his job application for health reasons. Zhou's case ignited wide debate on discrimination in public service recruitment, especially the unjustifiable health standards.

## Macao Banks Given OK for RMB Settlement

By Sun Yongjian

The People's Bank of China issued an announcement Wednesday allowing renminbi (RMB) settlement for banks in the Macao Special Administrative Region for RMB deposit, exchange, credit card payment and remittances. A spokesman for the bank said in a news release that the move was basically in line with the settlements offered for Hong Kong banks. Together with the Monetary Authority of Macao, the central bank will authorize a Macao bank to be the settlement bank, which will be responsible for the deposit and drawing of RMB and transportation of RMB cash in Macao, the spokesman said. The central bank will authorize the settlement bank to offer hedge fund services for exchange business between RMB and Macao pataca in certain special circumstances. The spokesman explained that allowing RMB settlement was necessary because of the increasing trade contacts between Macao and the mainland. Meanwhile, more and more shops in Macao are willing to accept payment in RMB.

### Public Security Review

Beijing's 110 emergency hotline received nine percent more calls this week than during the preceding week, and 207 criminal suspects were apprehended after investigations. Break-ins mostly occurred at Chaoyangmenwai, Jinsong, Balizhuang and Jiuxianqiao in Chaoyang, West Chang'an Avenue in Xicheng, Yangqiao and Liuliqiao in Fengtai, Yongdingmenwai in Chongwen, as well as Ganjiakou, Sijiqing and Qinglongqiao in Haidian late at night, while street robberies occurred most frequently at Hujialou, Panjiayuan, Datun and Maizidian in Chaoyang, Ganjiakou and Yangfangdian in Haidian and Donghuashi in Chongwen during the day. Hujialou, Huajiadi, Jingsong, Sanlitun and Jianfang in Chaoyang, Yuegezhuang and Majiabao in Fengtai as well as Shuangyushu in Haidian were the most common places for auto-related crimes to take place, mainly at night and in the early morning. (Information from Beijing Public Security Bureau)

## First National Economic Survey Begins

China launched its first national economic survey on Sunday, which is intended to provide a clear picture of the nation's economic strengths. In Beijing, nearly 50,000 people will work on the investigation, collecting data from all areas of the economy. Spot-checks will be carried out to ensure the investigation is complete. The economic units under investigation include business units and private businesses in the manufacturing sector and the service industry. Deputy director of the National Bureau of Statistics Lin Xianyu said the investigation will research China's national conditions and economic power. Beijing is the first region to begin the survey. Other provinces and regions will begin work in late August or in September. The investigation in Beijing will be completed by the end of this month. (Xinhuanet)

## Vehicle Purchase Tax Reduced

By Zhang Bo

With prices of new cars continuing to fall in China, the State Administration of Taxation lowered the minimum taxable value of vehicle purchase tax as of Sunday. The administration has recently re-examined the minimum taxable values for vehicle purchase tax on over 40,000 kinds of vehicles, and published a notice stipulating that the newly-established minimum taxable value can be implemented in various areas. However, according to Tuesday's *Beijing Star Daily*, the minimum taxable values for the over 40,000 kinds of autos will not be publicized by the administration, and only when declaring the tax payment can buyers know the taxable values. The largest decrease on vehicle purchase tax will be for top grade vehicles, prices of which saw the greatest relative decrease. The decrease will reportedly amount to several thousand yuan. There is relatively little scope for tax to be decreased on economy vehicles, which will see a decrease in the vicinity of one to two hundred yuan.



# Goldman Sachs Awaits Venture Approval

By James Liu

Goldman Sachs Group should find out next month whether it can establish an investment bank in this country.

The State Council has already given the go-ahead to a joint venture between the US investment bank, Hainan Securities, and well-connected Chinese banker Fang Fenglei, the *Financial Times* reported July 28. Final approval power,

however, rests in the hands of the China Banking Regulatory Commission, the country's financial watchdog.

Wayne Fu from the corporate communications department of Goldman Sachs (Asia), would not confirm or deny the report in a phone interview with *Beijing Today*. "This is not the time to comment on the matter," Fu said.

Legend Holdings, China's

biggest computer maker, was named another partner in the JV investment bank in previous reports and even expected to hold a 33 percent stake in the firm.

However, Gui Lin, public communications officer for Legend, directly denied to *Beijing Today* that her company had ever planned such a move.

"No reporters ever contacted me on the matter and I

don't know how they could come up with such a story," Gui said.

Fu would not disclose the identity of any third party in the banking JV.

Goldman Sachs planned to provide Fang, 52, a co-founder of China International Capital Corp. (CICC), and his management staff with loans to back their stake in the new investment bank, the *21st Cen-*

*tury Business Herald* reported.

The venture should obtain its brokerage license from failed Hainan Securities Ltd., which is being liquidated.

If the deal is approved, Goldman Sachs will hold a controlling 33 percent share – the largest allowed by Chinese law – and be entitled to use its name for the Chinese JV, likely to be called Goldman Sachs China.



A line of nearly 100 products bearing the logo of the Beijing Olympics hit the shelves of 10 large shopping malls in Beijing on Thursday following the granting of licenses by the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games Organizing Committee.

The goods fall into the five categories of souvenirs, clothes, stationary, bags and handicrafts and their prices range from 15 yuan to 298 yuan.

Photo by Photocore

## Foreign Carmakers Driving Towards Auto Credit

By Sun Yongjian

Ford Motor Credit Company, the financing arm of the American carmaker, announced on Monday that Chinese banking authorities had approved the company's initial application to provide auto financing services in China. The move will make Ford the fourth international company to enter the financing field after SAIC GM, Toyota and Volkswagen got initial green lights last December.

After receiving its license from the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC), Ford Credit plans to offer financing to consumers and to the more than 100 Ford dealers across China. Ford Credit, which will go by the name Ford Automotive Finance in this country, plans to invest an initial \$60 million, or 500 million yuan, for capital requirements and other needs.

"China is an important market for Ford Motor Company, and Ford Credit's approach is to build a foundation that will support the company's commitment to China," said Mike Bannister, Ford chairman and CEO.

As part of an ongoing \$1 billion China expansion plan, Ford Motor recently announced it was building a new assembly plant in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province. At its two existing plants in China, Ford builds Mondeo and Fiesta cars and Transit commercial vans. Its Volvo, Jaguar and Land Rover products are also sold in the domestic market.

Despite getting earlier approval, Ford rivals GM, Toyota and Volkswagen are all still awaiting their actual licensing to kick off financing services.

"Things are in preparation. We are just waiting for a business license from the CBRC," a source from Volkswagen Auto Financial (China) who asked to go unnamed told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday.

## Medicine Makers Up Antibiotics Prices

By Sun Yongjian

A group of 15 domestic pharmaceutical factories collectively raised the producer prices of four kinds of antibiotic drugs on August 1, the *Beijing News* reported Thursday. A source from the China Chemical Pharmaceutical Industry Association (CCPIA) confirmed the news the same day.

The 15 factories, including Hayao Group, Shijiazhuang Pharmaceutical, North China Pharmaceutical Group and Lukang Pharmaceutical Group, reached an agreement on the new prices at a July 28 professional conference organized by the CCPIA in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province. The price jack was intended to cover the companies' losses incurred by excessively low antibiotics prices in the domestic market, the *Beijing News* said.

The four antibiotic drugs targeted are penicillin G sodium, ampicillin sodium, cefazolin sodium and cefradine, which occupy more than 50 percent of domestic market tranches.

"But soaring sales have led to almost zero profits for producers due to conflicts between the excessively high prices of raw materials and the excessively low sales prices of finished products," Mr. Sun, an executive from the public relations department of Shijiazhuang Pharmaceutical told *Beijing Today* on Thursday.

"Hayao Group expects to suffer around 140 million yuan in losses this year," Liu Cunzhou, Haoyao chairman was quoted as saying by the *Beijing News*.

Zhou Yan, CCPIA chief secretary, said it was not clear if the agreement to raise prices would last a long time, as it would depend on market response and on the factories themselves.

## Solution Sought to Shenzhen Bank Card Battle

By Sun Yongjian

The two-month dispute between stores and banks in Shenzhen over card payments is nearing resolution, with parties involved meeting for bilateral negotiations to set new fees for bank card purchases, the Shenzhen-based *New Express* newspaper reported on July 31.

Hua Tao, chairman of the Shenzhen Retailing Commercial Industry Association, said on July 30 that a final solution to the dispute had been formulated by his organization. That answer called for card transaction fees in retail stores to be decided through negotiations between thousands of shops and several banks on an individual basis, instead of through setting one unified rate, the paper said.

The dispute started in June, months after the Shenzhen Retailer Association first sent a letter to the Shenzhen branch of China UnionPay in late February asking for the card transaction fee rate to be cut by 0.5 percent. Retailers complained their profits were squeezed as UnionPay's 1-1.5 percent rates were too high.

When negotiations between the two sides broke down, retailers started to refuse to honor the cards on June 3 and have continued not to take UnionPay bank cards.

Hua explained that the negotiations would be helpful in breaking Shenzhen UnionPay's monopolistic power to charge fees and in setting transaction fees acceptable to each side.

Shenzhen UnionPay, however, denied that any agreement had been reached between stores and banks, Shenzhen-based *Southern Daily* reported on August 3.

"We have no idea about these 'bilateral negotiations'," a company executive was quoted as saying.

## Another Foreign Pharm Patent Challenged

By Sun Yongjian

Following China's surprise decision to negate the domestic patent for erectile-dysfunction drug Viagra, held by US-based Pfizer, another lucrative pharmaceutical patent has come under fire by Chinese competitors.

Three domestic pharmaceutical factories have filed an application to the State Intellectual Property Bureau (SIPB) for the cancellation of a patent held by British pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline PLC (GSK) on some ingredients for making diabetes drugs.

Chen Qingbin, vice president of Anboda Patent Agent Co., which was entrusted by the three factories to fight GSK's patent, refused to disclose the names of his clients or any deeper information about their arguments.

"The market potential for these drugs in China is very large. There are about 40 million diabetes patients in China," Chen told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday.

"Any person or enterprise has the right to appeal against the validity of a registered patent, according to Chinese law," he added.

"The patent challenged was registered in 2003 to protect rosiglitazone tartrate, a necessary ingredient in the production of diabetes medicines and all of its chemical compounds formed with other salts," an insider from GSK (China) Investment Co. who asked to be unnamed said Wednesday.

Chen said that the SIPB's Patent Re-examination Commission would hold a hearing on August 18 to decide the fate of the patent.

GSK planned to send witnesses to testify at that hearing, the company source confirmed.

## HSBC Strikes Deal with Bank of Communications

By Sun Yongjian

John Bond, group chairman of HSBC Holding said Monday that the bank's deal to acquire 19.9 percent of the Bank of Communications was going smoothly, the Xinhua news agency reported the following day.

"Those discussions have gone well and we have now reached an agreement in principle on the terms of our investment. We expect to make a further announcement shortly," he was quoted as saying when disclosing HSBC Holding's 2004 interim results.

HSBC announced its operating income was up 35 percent to over \$25 billion, with attributable profit up 55 percent to \$6.3 billion, well beyond market expectations, Xinhua said.

The profit levels represented the highest ever posted by HSBC Holdings in one six-month period. Bond attributed the solid performance to the recoveries of the Hong Kong and US economies. "Hong Kong's economy achieved a significantly higher rate of growth, buoyed by rising business and consumer confidence and by measures taken by the authorities to allow increased tourism from the Chinese mainland," he said.

However, he said, "it would be unwise to relax" because of global imbalances and rising risks of market disruptions.

## Parmalat Clamps Milk Flow in China

By Sun Yongjian

Bankrupt Italian dairy company Parmalat, formerly one of the world's biggest milk producers, has suspended making milk in China, the *21st Century Economic Report* said on Sunday.

"Our workers are on holiday," a source from Nanjing Milk Group, a domestic company entrusted to manage Parmalat's business in China, told that newspaper.

"The production of some of Nanjing Group's milk brands such as Weigang have been moved to other subsidiary factories."

Parmalat's annual production capacity was targeted at 5,500 tons of milk when the company was entrusted to Nanjing Milk Group in 2003.

Following the bankruptcy of the company's Italy headquarters, production in China had to stop, the *21st Century Business Herald* said.

Production at Tianjin Parmalat was halted nearly two months ago.

Parmalat (Zaodong) Milk Co. in Zaoqing, Guangdong Province stopped making milk before that after running up serious debts. The factory was later rented out to Inner Mongolia-based Yili Group for 1 million yuan per year, the report said.

## Nintaus Hits Stop Button on DVD Line

By Sun Yongjian

Nintaus, a major Chinese maker of DVD players, has suspended production, its listed subsidiary ST Tianlong announced at the Shanghai Stock Exchange last Saturday. In that announcement, ST Tianlong also confirmed reports that the production halt was a result of the arrest of Nintaus' former chairman of the board for embezzlement.

The Nintaus subsidiary previously issued a warning announcement at the exchange on July 13 that it expected to post deficits for the first half of this year.

The struggling company's products have already been taken off shelves at some local stores, *Beijing Youth Daily* reported Sunday, though other local media noted the DVD players were still being sold at some larger chain store outlets.

"At least 10 sales agents of Nintaus are seeking cooperation with other DVD producers," an unnamed Nintaus executive was quoted as saying in a *Beijing Star Daily* report.

Internal struggles have divided Nintaus' management, the executive revealed.

## Rolls-Royce to Auction Exceptional Cars in China

Britain-based luxury car maker Rolls-Royce is planning to auction off three astronomically expensive and historic Centenary Phantom limousines in three Chinese mainland cities.

Colin Kelly, who is responsible for Rolls-Royce's Asian-Pacific business, said just 35 of the super-luxury cars had been hand-manufactured for the global market in a bid to celebrate the company's century of excellence.

The three limited edition Centenary Phantoms would be sold in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Beijing, said John Wong, general manager of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars China.

To reinforce the significance of the Centenary Phantom, each of the 35 cars is hallmarked with a polished cast chassis vehicle plate indicating its numerical position within the series.

The numbers of the cars to be sold in China – the only three to have pure-gold Spirit-of-Ecstasy emblems – are eight, 18 and 35.

The auction in Beijing for Centenary Phantom number 8 will be held August 28 with bidding starting at 9.88 million yuan, Wong said. (Xinhua)



# Business As Usual at Targeted Buildings



Xinhua / AFP Photo

New York, August 2 (AP) - Financial industry workers returned to work with determination and little trepidation Monday following a government warning that terrorists may be planning to strike “iconic” financial institutions.

Streets were closed around the New York Stock Exchange, Citigroup Center in midtown Manhattan, Prudential Financial Inc.’s headquarters in Newark, N.J., and the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington. All were identified by authorities Sunday as terrorism targets. Police wearing flak vests and armed with automatic weapons kept a wary eye on the crowds of employees waiting to get through increased security to get into the buildings.

“Just look around,” said Arturo Ramirez, a maintenance worker at Citigroup, as he pointed to a pair of armed and armored police officers. “Now that these buildings have been named in the media and all the police are here, who’s going to try anything? I feel safer now than I did before.”

None of the targeted businesses reported unusual numbers of absentees Monday, and many of the people working at the buildings, when asked about their feelings regarding the terrorist threat, just shrugged, though many said they received calls from concerned friends and family about the threat.

In Washington, employees of the World Bank and the IMF, many of whom come from all over the world, took the threat in their stride.

“I did not give a second thought about coming to work this morning,” said Malkiat Singh of India, who works in the World Bank’s legal department. “Look around. It’s completely normal except for all the television (cameras). That’s what stands out.”

## Local Report:

*As the US is worthy of the name of world superpower in terms of political, economic and military capacities, the obvious route of attack for Al Qaeda would be on the economic life line of the country.*

*Since 2001, the US government has greatly strengthened its precautions against terrorist attacks. As a result, Al Qaeda has shifted its focus to institutions and persons from the US and other western countries. However, it has not gained any ground yet. So the organization is probably again turning its gaze to US soil.*

— *Beijing Youth Daily, Beijing (Zhang Bo)*

## US, Australia Sign Free-trade Agreement

Washington DC, August 3 (UPI) -- President Bush Tuesday signed documents implementing a free-trade agreement with Australia but the deal could yet be defeated in the Australian legislature.

The agreement would eliminate duties on 99 percent of all US manufactured exports to Australia, the White House said. The US sends about \$2 billion worth of manufactured goods and \$700 million of farmer-produced products each year to Australia.

If approved by the Australian and US legislature, the trade agreement would go into effect on January 1 next year.



Australian Ambassador Bob Thawley (L) and US Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans look on as US President George W. Bush delivers a statement shortly before signing the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act. (AFP Photo)

## AT&T Sinks to Junk Level

August 3 (Financial Times) - AT&T, once considered one of America’s most credit-worthy companies, sank into the mire of the junk bond market on Tuesday after Standard & Poor’s stripped away the telecommunications company’s last remaining investment-grade credit rating.

The downgrade had been expected by the bond markets, which have watched Moody’s Investors Service and Fitch Ratings also cut their ratings on AT&T to junk in recent weeks amid concern about the company’s ability to compete in the market for business and broadband communications.

S&P’s action is, however, significant because it ensures AT&T’s inclusion in various high-yield bond indexes and the sale of its bonds by investment grade debt managers. AT&T will become the fifth-largest issuer in Citigroup’s high-yield index, comprising some 1.8 per cent.

AT&T last held the top notch rating of AAA from S&P in 1984, and its debt issues were once considered the pricing benchmark for corporate bond markets, according to Martin Fridson, chief executive of high-yield research firm FridsonVision.

But the telecoms company’s creditworthiness began to deteriorate following its restructuring in the early 1980s, and its recent decision to quit the consumer market helped precipitate the most recent downgrade by highlighting its lack of growth opportunities.

## Black Workers Sue Kodak

New York, August 1 (Reuters) - Black workers are suing Eastman Kodak Co., charging that the world’s top maker of photographic film paid blacks less and promoted them less often, lawyers for the plaintiffs said on Sunday.

The suit follows a high-profile race discrimination suit against copier maker Xerox Corp., and comes several years after large settlements of discrimination cases by corporate giants Coca-Cola Co. and Texaco Inc., now part of Chevron-Texaco Corp.

“Kodak says it’s been taking steps to address discrimination,” said attorney Clayborne Chavers, whose law firm is representing the plaintiffs, in a statement. “But the steps they’ve been taking amount to a cover-up, window dressing.”

## Director Done for Defrauding Granny

Vancouver, August 3 (CP) - A company director who defrauded an 86-year-old woman out of \$30,000 has been fined and banned from British Columbia securities markets for 25 years by the province’s market regulator.

The BC Securities Commission said Tuesday it had ordered Gordon Callies to pay a \$125,000 administrative penalty for his role in an illegal distribution of securities while selling shares of Cambria Bancorp Ltd., a company in which he was a director.

Callies was also ordered to resign any position he holds as a director or officer of any company issuing securities, except those owned solely by himself or his family.

Callies admitted he distributed securities of Cambria to 14 investors without being registered to trade in securities and without a prospectus. He also admitted he converted \$30,000 of the 86-year-old woman’s funds to his own use, contrary to her instructions.

# Rich-Poor Gap Wider Under Blair

London, August 2 (Guardian) -The gap between rich and poor has continued to grow since Labour came to power, a report by a Blairite thinktank revealed today.

The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) accused the government of failing to argue consistently and publicly for a fairer, more equal Britain.

The rich have continued to get richer, the IPPR says in its report, State of the Nation, which is published today.

The richest 1% of the population have increased their share of national income from around 6% in 1980 to 13% in 1999. The wealthiest 10% of the population now own more than half the country’s wealth - up from 47% to 54% over the past 10 years.

But despite the government’s declared aim to eradicate child poverty, 23% of children in Britain were living in households earning below 60% of median income in 2001, compared to just 5% in Denmark, 10% in Sweden and 14% in Germany.

The poorest continue to be more likely to suffer from crime. Around 4.8% of people

earning less than £ 5,000 a year were burgled last year, compared with 2.7% of those earning over £ 30,000.

Parental social class and ethnicity still heavily influence life chances, the think-tank found, while women continue to be more likely to live in poverty than men.

## Analyst’s Take:

*During the first governing period after Blair came to power in 1997, the Labour government played an active role in narrowing the rich-poor gap in Britain. The minimum wage standard was raised, and the government allocated several billion euros to support the operation of Britain’s large-scale free social medical care system.*

*However, with the development of the economic situation, both high-wage and low-wage jobs have seen an increase in Britain, while middle-wage jobs have suffered from a decrease. As a result, the proportion of middle income people has been reduced, and the rich-poor gap has been widened.*

— *Donny Shi, PhD in Economics, Renmin University of China, Beijing*



Luis Felipe de Seixas Correa, right, Ambassador of Brazil to UN speaks with journalists after a plenary WTO session, in Geneva, on July 28. AP Photo

## WTO OKs Radical Plan

August 1 (AP) -- World Trade Organization members approved a plan Sunday to end export subsidies on farm products and cut import duties across the world, a key step towards a comprehensive global accord that has been discussed since 2001. The deal was approved by the 147-nation body, opening the way for full negotiations to start in September.

“Developed countries have recognized that agricultural trade with a heavy subsidy component is not free trade,” Indian Trade Minister Kamal Nath said. However, he also said that the US, European Union and other developed countries will also benefit by removing heavy agricultural subsidies from their budgets.

In agriculture, the document agrees to eliminate export subsidies and other forms of government support for exports, while making big cuts to other subsidies. It includes a “down payment” that would see an immediate 20 percent cut in the maximum permitted payments by rich nations.

The highest agricultural import tariffs will face the biggest cuts. Nations will have the right to keep higher tariffs on some of the products they consider most important and sensitive. 10 countries, including Japan and Switzerland, want to maintain higher import tariffs to protect domestic producers.

## Analyst’s Take:

*There are three international agricultural trading groups: America, European countries and other developed countries forming the first group; Japan and South Korea forming the second group; China and other developing countries form the third group.*

*Developed countries did make concessions, but the influence for them is subtle. In return, they asked developing nations to reduce industrial import tariffs correspondingly.*

*With the end of all round export subsidies, the worldwide price of farm products will rise. Thus China’s competitiveness may get stronger. However, whether China can seize the opportunity and boost itself or not is totally dependent upon the interior agricultural development conditions and technology levels.*

— *Cheng Dawei, professor of the School of Economics from Renmin University of China, Beijing WTO Affairs Research Center (Chu Meng)*

## BBC Accuses Senior Olympic Figures of Corruption

London, August 3 (Reuters) - Two senior members of the Olympic movement told undercover journalists posing as business agents they could corrupt the 2012 Olympic bidding process, BBC TV alleged later on Wednesday.

Bulgarian International Olympic Committee member Ivan Slavkov said he and an agent had been launching their own counter-operation to catch people trying to “entrap” Olympic officials.

The program also shows Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) director general Muttaleb Ahmad explaining how he can influence IOC votes, stirring memories of the Salt Lake City corruption scandal that rocked the movement six years ago.

BBC undercover reporters, posing as

consultants acting for London businessmen, ask Slavkov: “Have you already decided where your allegiances lie?”

“Not yet,” Slavkov replies.

BBC: “Not yet, so you’re open to negotiations?”

Slavkov: “Yes.”

BBC: “So how do you encourage people to ... you know ... see the benefits?”

Slavkov: “I would say the different ... you know ... approach, different approach. Some are businessmen and they are interested in favors.”

BBC: “Yes, they want favors.”

Slavkov: “Yes, in some areas they are interested.”

BBC: “So you think you may be able to offer them a business contract or...”

Slavkov: “Yes, yes. The other, the others just are ... they believe in sport.”



# Public Baths Turn Away Water-Wasting Women

By Jiang Yongzhu

Starting Monday, local public bath houses in Qianmen and Baizhifang and other areas have implemented policies to not allow female clients on grounds they use a disproportionate amount of water.

"After the price of water was raised in Beijing, we had to close our women's sections, since female bathers use four times the

amount of water men do," said the owner of a public bathroom in Qianmen who would not give his name.

Water prices were adjusted in the water-strapped city on August 1, rising 0.8 yuan to 3.7 yuan per cubic meter for residential consumers.

The new charges are much heavier for bathing businesses, shooting up to 61.5 yuan per cubic

meter from a previous 11.2 yuan. The average bather uses 0.3 cubic meters of water, now equivalent to around 18 yuan, while most public baths only charge 10 yuan for entrance and bathing fees.

Li Kai, head of the Beijing Bathing Industry Committee, said 80 percent of local public bathrooms fell into the mid- and low-priced ranges, with average fees between 10 to 30 yuan

per person. He explained that most such businesses targeted blue-collar workers and therefore could not raise their prices and remain competitive.

"This road will lead them to either close or move up-market," Li said.

Besides closing their women's sections, some bathing facilities have begun to remodel themselves as bodybuilding clubs and providers of other services.

The amount of water per person in arid Beijing is one-eighth the national average and just a thirtieth of the world average. Local authorities have said that the rise in water prices is intended to push water conservation by local industry, agriculture and business.

# Victim of US Customs Beating Seeks Justice

By Wang Fang

Chinese businesswoman Zhao Yan, who was badly beaten by officers of US Customs and Border Protection on July 23, has vowed to bring her assailants to justice through legal means.

"I will never give up my legal case until the perpetrators are brought to justice and punished," Zhao said in an interview on July 27 with a group of Chinese reporters at her office in Queens, New York.

Zhao was seated in a wheelchair and wore a hat and sunglasses to cover dark bruises and welts on her forehead that she feared would upset her family if they saw TV footage of the interview.

She explained that severe back pain caused by the beating forced her to use the wheelchair and combined with mental trauma to keep her from sleeping more than "two to three hours a day." One of Zhao's teeth was also broken in the now infamous incident.

The case has become a high-profile international affair, and was discussed by US Secretary of State Colin Powell and his Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing last week.

"We regret the apparent mistreatment of a Chinese national by a US customs officer in Niagara Falls,"

the US State Department said in a statement issued July 29. "We have communicated to the Chinese government that the US customs officer was arrested by Customs and Border Patrol Police and his case referred for criminal prosecution."

Back in Zhao's hometown, her mother Liu Wenmin hopes that the Chinese government will urge American authorities to get to the bottom of the case. After hearing that her daughter was filing a lawsuit in the US, she said, "I support her to stick up for her rights and I believe all of Chinese people will support her as well!"

Regarding her daughter's claims for \$5 million in compensation, Liu said, "I know that my daughter's pursuit in this lawsuit is not money but dignity, the dignity of all Chinese."

A US court will begin hearings on the case September 20, according to Zhao's attorney Stanley Legan. Robert Rhodes, the alleged perpetrator of the assault, is required to attend court that day, while Zhao is not.

Attorneys for both sides are currently gathering evidence. The lawsuit will have two parts, first the criminal case and then a civil suit.



## One Child Killed, 17 Injured in School Stabbing Spree

By James Liu

One child has died and 14 others, along with three of their teachers, have been hospitalized after a gatekeeper stabbed 18 people with a kitchen knife at a local kindergarten Wednesday morning, the Xinhua news agency reported.

The surviving students, all aged from two to six, and their three female teachers are in stable condition after undergoing treatment and surgery, Xinhua said.

The kindergarten is run by the No. 1 Hospital of Beijing University, which is now overseeing the victim's care.

"We have all our best experts called together and

we are trying our best to save their lives," said Guo Xiaohui, vice president of the hospital.

One child and one teacher, both of whom sustained heavy wounds to the neck and throat, were still in critical condition and under observation at the hospital's intensive care ward, while victims with less serious injuries had been transferred to another hospital that specialized in women and children, Guo said. A work team has also been set up at that facility to counsel the victims' families.

Eight policemen arrived at the scene Wednesday within minutes of receiving

an emergency call after the stabbings began at 9:36 am. They quickly arrested doorman Xu Heping, 51, whose motive remained unclear, Xinhua said.

Police later confirmed that Xu, a Beijing native, had received treatment for schizophrenia at a local mental hospital in 1999.

He had worked at the kindergarten for two years before the incident.

Senior officials, including Liu Qi, secretary of the Beijing municipal committee of the Communist Party of China, and Vice Mayor Fan Boyuan have visited the victims and asked doctors to spare no effort in their treatment, Xinhua said.

## Seven Vehicles Smashed by Dangerous Driver

By Wang Fang

A black Mercedes-Benz sedan careening through the streets of Changsha, Hunan Province, ran over two motorcycles, one bicycle and a taxi, before smashing into another cab and a Santana car trying to make a getaway from the scene on July 26. Seven people were injured in the accidents.

Witnesses said that around 9 pm that night, the luxury sedan raced down Xinmin Street at very high speed, first hitting a motorcycle traveling on the side lane and sending its two passengers crashing to the ground. Seconds later, the car rammed a bicycle, whose rider, a man in his 50s, luckily jumped off just before impact. The next victim was another motorcycle carrying a mother and daughter.

After those first three accidents, the driver of the Mercedes did not slow down, but actually hit the accelerator, trying to flee the scene, witnesses said. Then the car smashed into two taxis waiting at an intersection ahead for a red light and also tagged a Santana car parked on the side of the street. The Santana and the second rear-ended taxi blocked the way, forcing the dangerous driver to stop.

Seven victims were taken to No. 4 Hospital in Changsha for treatment. The most seriously injured was Chen Lie, a passenger on the first motorcycle hit, who suffered several bone fractures and had to get eight stitches in his head.

Police quickly arrived on the scene and arrested the driver of the Mercedes, Huang Yanni.

The officers were shocked



The Mercedes was the second sedan piloted to destruction by Huang Yanni this year.

to find out she had been arrested on March 29 after piloting a BMW car into accidents that injured another seven people. At that time, she did not hold a driver's license, but she was able to present one to the police last week.

Her excuse for the latest series of smash-ups was the same she gave the first time – she was very nervous behind the wheel and could not control the car.

A joint investigative team formed by the Hunan Provincial Police Office and the Police Bureau of Changsha on August 2 has begun looking into the incident and promised city residents an objective and fair report. The team leader has also called for rational public attitudes towards Huang, who is the subject of swirling rumors.

That investigator said the team was collecting evidence to see if Huang should face hit-and-run charges. Responding to repeated questions from the local media as to how she got back on the street and why Huang was driving luxury cars in both incidents, he noted that she was the ex-wife of a well-known Changsha entrepreneur and that she had only been detained for 15 days after the first bad driving derby.

## Precious Spirits Fetch Half Million at Auction

By Chen Si

A bottle of Wuliangye spirits distilled 600 years ago was bought in Sichuan Province on Sunday for 500,000 yuan by Zhang Xiangqing, chairman of the board of Rongcheng Steel Group in Tianjin.

Over 400 people and television stations from Hong Kong and Japan attended the auction, held at the Jinjiang Hotel in Chengdu. Not on hand was the wine's former owner, Lei Yongzhi, who bought the bottle 11 years ago for 11,000 yuan.

Bidding started at 50,000 yuan, but soared to 300,000 yuan within minutes. Two aggressive bids of 100,000 each finally won Zhang the treasured wine.

"This is a bargain for a national treasure like this. I figured it would go for at least 2 million yuan," Zhang told the Chengdu-based *West China City Daily* afterwards.

The bottle is the last from an ancient batch of only five bottles. Three were presented to distinguished foreign guests in 1990 and



Zhang Xiangqing holds what could be the world's most expensive baijiu.

another was previously purchased by a Japanese man.

"I originally planned to present this to my uncle and aunt in Japan and let some Japanese friends appreciate China's ancient culture. But after more consideration, I've decided to hand over this national treasure to Wuliangye Wine Group for the time being," Zhang told *Beijing Today* by phone. "I really admire how fast they have developed in a short time."

## Anti-drug Plane Crashes in Hebei

By Chen Si

Five people onboard a light plane used to monitor opium poppy planting died on July 29 when the aircraft crashed in Fengning County, Hebei Province.

Fengning villager Huang Guangde was eating breakfast at 8:20 am that morning when the electricity in his home suddenly cut off, followed by a huge noise outside. "I ran out from my home and saw a plane had crashed into nearby Dongtai hill," Huang told the *Beijing News* the next day.

The aircraft was charred black and the smell of fuel filled the air. All five people on board, Liu Hongfei, captain of the anti-narcotics team in Zhangjiakou, Hebei, Wang Shiping, vice captain of the local police detachment, other two policemen and a pilot, were found dead.

The plane was on loan from the national air force and used by the Hebei Public Security Bureau to take photos of opium poppies secretly planted in valleys in the province.

"The plane was flying low when its tail hit a high-voltage power line



put up on top of Dongtai hill. The plane then broke into flames and plummeted into the hill," Liu Xiujian, a clerk in from the bureau told *Beijing Today* Wednesday.

"A funeral ceremony for the victims will be held tomorrow," he said, but would not disclose additional information.

The accident severed power to many homes in the surrounding area until local authorities could erect a new electrical line the next day. Also damaged was nearly 4,000 square meters of corn crops.

Fengning authorities have promised to compensate villagers for the destroyed corn, Mr. Sun, vice secretary of the local government, said Thursday.

## Vote Buying Lands Villager in Prison

By Chen Si

A villager in Changxindian, Fengtai District, was charged with breaking Beijing election law last Thursday after trying to buy votes for his candidate for deputy of the Changxindian Town People's Congress.

In February, the former deputy moved to a higher level of government, leaving the position vacant. Shen Zhongchen, secretary of the local party branch, was chosen as the sole candidate in the required election for the deputy post.

Villager Liu Xiyin opposed Shen's uncontested run and hoped to elect Zhang Xiaoyun, former secretary of the village committee. "I just thought Zhang had a steadier hand and more experience," Liu told the *Beijing Morning Post* last Thursday.

Liu then went on the campaign trail, promising several other villagers that he would give them 10 yuan each if

they voted for Zhang. When the election was held on February 25, Shen received 130 votes and Zhang 90.

The loss ended up costing Liu 310 yuan. He later admitted that he had not voted for Zhang, or Shen, but for an anonymous third party who had repeatedly begged for his ballot.

Liu was arrested in April and was sentenced last week to six months in prison for election rigging by a Beijing court. The February election was also deemed invalid.

China's Criminal Law, set in 1997, calls tampering with elections a serious crime that can harm the rights of the electorate and the government. "Many citizens are not very familiar with such crimes, but through this case, some have learned about them," Liu Tong, the People's Court of Fengtai District judge who presided over the case, was quoted as saying in *China Youth Daily* on Monday.





# APEC Youth Science Festival Launched in Beijing

By Zhou Ying

The 3rd APEC Youth Science Festival is being held from August 3 to 9 in Beijing.

It is the first time China has hosted such an APEC event, featuring science and youth together in its theme, but it is another important APEC event held in China following the 2001 APEC Summit Conference.

The festival is co-sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, China Association for Science and Technology, the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League and the Beijing Municipal Government. It is also supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chinese Academy of Engineering and National Natural Science Foundation of China.

Of the 21 member economies of APEC, 14 are participating in this event. The total number of delegates amounts to 1,200, among whom 800 are local, with over 400 from other member countries or regions. There will be more than 200 Science and Technology Exhibition booths open, covering 6,000 square meters in the National Agricultural Exhibition Hall.

"The purpose of this activity is to promote science and technology exchanges and cooperation; to enhance friendship among young people from APEC member economies; and to facilitate sustainable development in the Asia and Pacific Region," said Fan Boyuan, vice mayor of Beijing.

Fan said that the Chinese government has always attached high importance to scientific development, and the Beijing government has set up a Mayor's Award to encourage young people who contribute to scientific innovation.

Grouped into different student forums, students will submit science papers in English and present their research results by the end of the festival. In addition, field visits will be arranged to high-tech enterprises, science and technology museums and botanical gardens.



To try and help student delegates overcome language and cultural obstacles, it has arranged for local students and students from other APEC countries or regions to share lodging rooms. "They will all be together when participating in student forums, technical field visits, cultural exchange and sightseeing, so they can deepen mutual understanding and friendship," Li continued.



The participants of each delegation are mainly students between 14 to 18 years old. The Chinese delegation to the festival is composed of carefully picked students from around the country.



The APEC Science and Technology Exhibition attracts visitors of all ages.

Photos by Chen Bai/Ma Huan



Foreign delegates give a performance at the opening ceremony.

Photo by Chen Bai

## Opening Ceremony of the APEC Youth Science Festival

By Zhou Ying

The 3rd APEC Youth Science Festival raised its curtain on Tuesday morning in the National Agricultural Exhibition Hall.

18 students from 14 delegations danced and sang in a performance to express their joyful mood. The theme song of the activity "We Are Good Friends," gave voice to the desire to extend friendly ties.

After the ceremony, more than 1,200 delegates entered the exhibition hall to visit the Science and Technology Exhibition. "This exhibition is consistent with the theme of the 2008 Olympic Games, that of Green Olympics," Li Jian, a senior official with the event's organizing committee said.

Kelley Kampman, an American girl told Beijing Today that Chinese and American culture is very different and this difference can be clearly seen in the exhibits.

"The exhibition provides us with a platform to exchange ideas with students from various regions. Students from different countries have different understandings about science and technology," Zhou Zengquan, a professor from Peking University told Beijing Youth Daily.

Speaking of works from Chinese delegates, Zhou said that their inventions are more practical.

But perhaps they don't represent the most profound scientific research. "We have to encourage students' ability to solve problems with their own hands. However, the scientific content of their work is not that high. This has something to do with our recent educational system. In fact, it is very hard for Chinese students to have enough time to do the research."

Shu Yi, a volunteer from Beijing Institute of Technology told Beijing Today that different schools have different attitudes. "Some schools always attach high importance to the proportion of students entering universities, so they may neglect the character education." He said that the government should enhance infrastructure investment to build well-equipped laboratories.

"It is worth exploring what kind of the mode we should apply in developing popular science among Chinese students," said Li Xueyou, vice-minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology, after visiting the exhibition. He said he had noticed that some American students do their research with a university teacher's guidance. "I think there is much in their method that we can make use of."

The exhibition, which is free of charge, will close on Monday.



## Feeling the Science in Beijing

By Zhou Ying

More than 1,200 delegates of The 3rd APEC Youth Science Festival paid a visit to China Science and Technology Museum Wednesday morning, and they were then divided into several groups to visit some high-tech development zones and high-tech enterprises around Beijing.

To everyone's surprise, many youth delegates from foreign countries showed a keen interest in the Exhibition on Science and Technology in Ancient China. Some delegates were astonished when they were informed that the ancient Chinese people invented the items on display. "I think those ancient Chinese people were quite smart," a Korean delegate told Beijing Youth Daily.

In the afternoon, one group of the delegates went to Zhongguancun Science Park. Wang Shiqi, the deputy director of the Park told them that the big advantage of the park was the opportunity it

gave to people with ability. Wang Bo, a delegate from Guangxi Province told the deputy director that he hoped to come back to Zhongguancun in the future.

Another group with 181 delegates went to the Chinese branch of the Coca-Cola Company, and Nokia. Delegates took photographs with the Coca-Cola logo. "It is very cool, and I am very happy to understand the history of Coca-Cola's development," Wu Peishan, an 18-year old girl from Taiwan told Beijing Today.

The group then moved to Nokia to learn about the process of mobile phone manufacture.

Gao Yongfa, general manager of the Chinese Branch of Nokia, said that the company pays a lot of attention to the cultivation of youth. "I think young people are really important to the company, not only in the aspect of technology, but also in the aspect of the company's culture," he told the young delegates.



Yu Tianjiao and some delegates in her group with her birthday gift.

## Volunteers Sign Up for the Festival

By Zhou Ying

Besides the student delegates from the APEC countries, a special group is also attracting people's attention. More than 620 volunteers are participating in The 3rd APEC Youth Science Festival.

According to the Organizing Committee, among the 620 volunteers, 120 are teachers, 100 are from the local universities in Beijing, and the rest are just people who wish to help at the exhibition. "Because delegates from various APEC economies are visiting, we have chosen a large amount of students who are masters of languages, such as Korean, Japanese, Malaysian, and Thai. Their job is to provide services to the delegates, and publicize the festival," Li Jian, a senior official with the event's organizing committee said at Monday's press conference. Yu Junsheng, one of the members of Organizing Committee added that the way to choose volunteers this time will be used for reference in the 2008 Olympics. "We can see it as a rehearsal for the Olympics in the field of volunteers, and I am sure that we can gain much precious experience."

Xu Xiaoyu, a 16-year-old girl who studies in America, has worked as a volunteer since August 1. "I was quite busy from the beginning. I would do the translation job at my office during daytime, and teach the delegates how to sing the theme song in the evening." However, she was sorry that she has to go back to America today because of her studies. "I really want to be a volunteer at the Beijing 2008 Olympics," she added.

Volunteers and delegates



Liu Yao (left) talks to a delegate.

Photos by Ma Huan



Xu Xiaoyu

have set up a tight friendship within a very short period. Some delegates from Russia, New Zealand, and Korea went to volunteer Liu Yao's room to hold a party. Liu Yao, a volunteer from China Foreign Affairs University, told Beijing Youth Daily on Monday that he is the big brother among the students in his group. "I play a bridge role between teachers and delegates. There are no obstacles in the way of our communication." He said that the reason why he is participating in this activity is to learn more about the world.

Speaking of the volunteers, the foreign delegates are full of praise. "I have to use the word wonderful to describe them. They will always be with us the moment we need them, and they make me feel at home," said Kelley Kampman, an America girl. A boy from Indonesia said that he was impressed by the volunteers' excellent English. "What's more, they can always tell us something about Chinese culture."

"I really felt very happy to serve people on my 18th birthday, and I like this kind of feeling," said Yu Tianjiao, who is the youngest volunteer. She spent her 18th birthday at the festival with all the delegates of her group on Wednesday. One of the delegates knew about her birthday, and he and some others in the group presented a T-shirt to her as a birthday gift, bearing all their signatures. "I was deeply touched when I received their gift. It was really a surprise," Yu said.



## Highlights at the Exhibition

By Zhou Ying

"Among the 200 exhibition booths, Beijing delegates have the largest area with about 26 booths," Ge Pu, one of the personnel from China Science and Technology Exchange Center, told Beijing Today on Tuesday afternoon.

In front of the booths from Haidian District, many people were attracted by the robots designed by students from Beijing 159th middle school and Beijing 57th junior high & high school. Li Shuangyi, designer of the robot traffic policeman, explained to the public how his robot can replace traffic police. "By putting an emitting device in the traffic lights and a receiver in the robot, the robot can lead the traffic, standing at the crossroads."

People were also curious about the No.5701 robot, from Beijing 57th junior high & high school. Kang Meng, a middle school student from Tianjin, came to Beijing specially to visit this exhibition. An old woman also showed keen interest in the robot. "Not only children are interested in this exhibition; I like it too," she said.

By hanging a message board on a wall, delegates from Hong Kong made their booths more accessible to the audience. Most parents were impressed by the Urination Alarm. "Bed wetting by babies is a headache for parents. Therefore we just want to find an effective solution to this problem," a student from St. Joan of Arc Secondary School explained. By use of some simple electronic components like transistors, they designed and invented the Urinating Alarm System. A visitor from Canada left a message on the board after hearing the introduction, saying, "A very clear idea with good market potential."

"It was awe inspiring to see the amount of creativity and scientific knowledge that the Chinese delegation showed in their displays," Kelley Kampman, an American girl from Pennsylvania told Beijing Today.

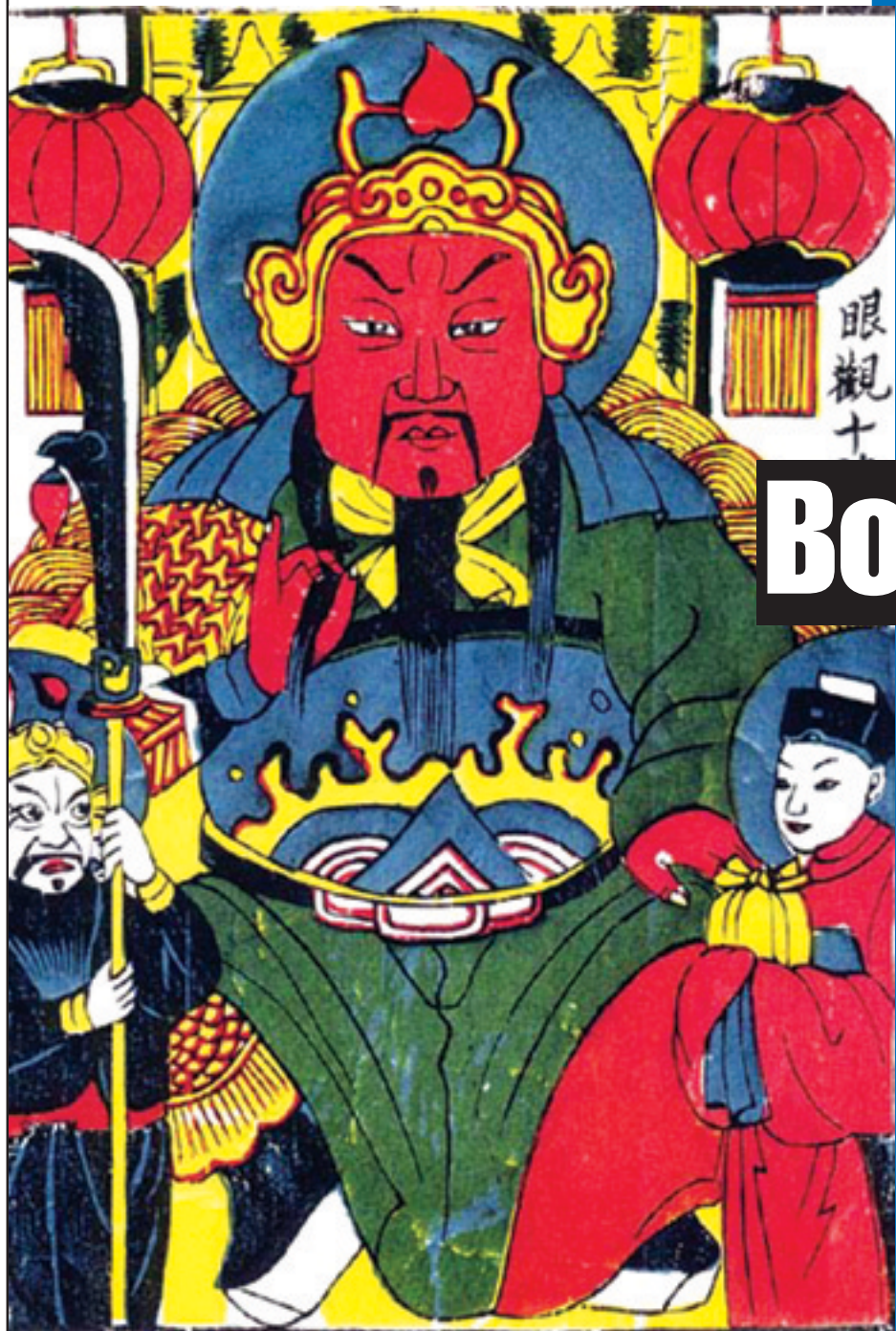
Just as foreign delegates are keen on seeing inventions and works from China, Chinese audiences showed great interest in inventions from foreign delegates.

"I am very impressed by the inventions brought by American students. I have noticed that unlike Chinese students, all of their inventions were presented in the form of scientific papers, instead of models," Mr. Zhang, a teacher from Hunan University told Beijing Today, while standing in front of a booth from America, entitled Kidney of Tomorrow, designed by Kelley Kampman.

In her paper, she introduced a new way to transplant kidneys. She said that the idea could eliminate the need for kidney donors and reduce the number of deaths by kidney failure and raise the survival rate of patients suffering from a variety of kidney diseases.

In front of the booths from Thailand, their fresh fruits attracted many people. Fon, a girl from Thailand, introduced how fruit juice can help people's health by conducting an experiment. She put some drops of blue liquid in a little test tube, and then put in one drop of fruit juice. The blue color faded away immediately. "We call the blue liquor free radical, which is the main cause of disease. Our studies have shown that increased consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables is associated with a lower incidence of many diseases, such as cancer, and cardiovascular disease," she continued.





"I think all those ancient people look the same anyway," a girl who did not recognize the image of Guan Yu said.

Only 5% of children said they like Peking Opera



"Peking Opera is awful. Those *lianpu* look beautiful, but the rhythm of the music is truly unpleasant to hear, and I cannot make out what they are singing and talking about at all."  
—Yeye, a Beijing boy who was born in 1994

By Dong Nan

People often talk about how the differences between older and younger Chinese people seem to grow more pronounced with each new generation. Some point to the advantages of greater material comforts, wider channels of information, more open views, more choices and more opportunities. But there's also evidence that valuable cultural tradition is being lost, as the outlook becomes more global.

*News Weekly*, a Guangzhou based magazine, conducted a survey on more than 100 children in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Taipei, who were born from 1990 to 1995, about their knowledge of traditional Chinese culture, modern Western cul-



Jay Chou is the idol of many children who were born in the 1990s

## Born in the 1990s

ture, their life attitudes, habits and consumption patterns.

The survey found that many of the children showed more interest and had more knowledge of the outside world, but that their knowledge of China's traditional culture was less impressive, compared to more senior generations.

### A global generation

Most of the respondents showed a strong interest in going abroad. Only a fifth said they did not wish to travel outside China. One fifth said they would travel abroad, but mainly for the purpose of study. A quarter said their main interest would be sight-seeing. However, one third said the reason they'd like to go abroad would be to communicate with foreigners and broaden their visions.

When asked, "which language do you consider more important, Chinese or English?" two thirds answered that English was more important than their mother tongue. "Of course English is more important, since it can help with international communication," said Xia Ning, a Guangzhou student aged 14 to *News Weekly*.

Many of the children had already been to other countries. Among them, 17% had been to Europe, 9% had visited other Asian countries, 6% had traveled to America, and 3% had visited Africa.

Chinese food is also losing out



Cola is their favorite beverage

Photo by Photocom

among children. When asked what they'd prefer to eat if their parents took them out for dinner, slightly more selected steak, KFC and McDonald's than Chinese food. Choices are also expanding in terms of entertainment. More than one third of the children said they preferred foreign songs to Chinese ones.

The children also had an impressive knowledge of famous brands. When asked which brands impressed them most, a wide range of world-famous names were offered in response, including Chanel, Panasonic and Marlboro.

### How much traditional knowledge remains?

The survey results will make worrying reading for traditionalists.

Asked to list the four greatest inventions in ancient China (paper, the compass, gunpowder and the printing press), less than half knew all four, and 13% knew none of them.

Brush calligraphy is a kind of unique Chinese art. In ancient China, people would be very proud if they could write good calligraphy. However, according to the survey, 60% of the children had little knowledge of this tradition.

Accordingly, not everyone was familiar with "*uenfangsibao*", the four necessary items to write traditional calligraphy, namely "*bi, mo, zhi, yan*" (writing brush, ink stick, paper and ink slab). Only 65% of the respondents knew all four. Most of the rest knew none of them.

Another fear is the potential demise of Peking Opera, if attitudes among the young are anything to go by. When asked "have you heard of Peking Opera, and do you like it," 49% said "I have heard of it but I don't like it," 45% had not even heard of it. Only 5% of the children said they liked it.

"It is awful," said Yeye, a Beijing boy born in 1994 to *Beijing Today*. "Those *lianpu* (make-up designs) look beautiful, and following my father's suggestion I used to send some to my cousin who has emigrated to Canada. But the rhythm of the music is truly un-

pleasant to hear, and I cannot make out what they are singing and talking about at all."

Most of the children were also bemused by questions in the survey about traditional Chinese cultural symbols. When asked to tell the meaning of seven renowned Chinese gods or celebrities in history, including *Chang'e* (goddess of the moon), *Shouxing* (god of longevity) and Guan Yu (a renowned military officer in The Three Kingdoms Period, 222 - 280), only a quarter of the children knew the answers.

One girl who did not recognize the image of Guan Yu said simply, "I think all those ancient people look the same anyway."

### Education: whose fault?

Zhao Xiaolei, a primary school teacher in Shanghai, tried playing some Chinese cartoons made in the 1950s and '60s that were based on ancient Chinese fairy stories to her students this year. To her surprise, her students, who were more used to Disney and Japanese Manga cartoons said they liked these "old things" just as much. They even asked her to play them again. This made Zhao think that fears of fading interest in traditional Chinese culture among the young was not some inevitable trend, brought on by modern distractions and more global influences.

She believes that the problem lies with inadequate education and the lack of proper methods for getting young people interested in their cultural heritage.

Another survey conducted at Zhejiang University would appear to support her idea. Students were asked to choose which they would prefer from six kinds of optional courses, including traditional culture, foreign languages, modern culture and sports. Some one third of the students chose traditional culture, making it easily the most popular.

When asked what they felt was wrong with education about traditional culture, most students said there weren't enough teachers. They also mentioned that society did not require people to know that much about it.

"I asked my daughter to study calligraphy, even though she had little interest in it. I realize I asked her to study it mainly because of my vanity, hoping she would win awards in some competitions," said Zhao Yuanyuan, a mother of an 11-year-old girl in Beijing to *Beijing Today*. "Sometimes I feel confused as well. Now that everyone uses computers, is it useless to be able to write good calligraphy?"

"I think it must be a good thing to know a lot about traditional culture," said Zhou, Zhao's daughter. "But no one talked to me about it that much, no one really told me how good or interesting it is, either my parents or teachers. They care more about examinations, you know. However, I really do not like calligraphy. I don't think I have a gift for it."

Ironically, in *News Weekly's* survey, 16% of the children said their favorite singer was Jay Chou. But not many of them knew that Jay Chou has adopted a number of Peking Opera tunes in his songs.

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Qin Lili, her mother and her son

Photos by Duowei Times

## Multinational Marriage and Family Violence

By Dong Nan

Getting married to an American man in California was a dream come true for Qin Lili. But after a happy start, things went from bad to worse as her husband became unfaithful and then violent. Now Qin, a dance instructor, is seeking a divorce. But so far she's been accused of cheating and bigamy. An appeal is underway, which Qin hopes will offer an escape route from her marriage from hell.

### Beaten up

Qin and 54-year-old Lee Lawler got married in October 28, 1998 and lived in San Bruno, California. Lawler was a martial arts enthusiast since his childhood, and had been to South Korea to study it. Now he runs a large martial arts school.

Qin told *Duowei Times*, a Chinese newspaper in America, that at the beginning, Lawler used to treat her very well. Before they got married, "every day he wrote me a letter or sent phone messages." To make her happy, Lawler even arranged for her 80-year-old mother who lived in Beijing at that time and her 11-year-old son from a previous relationship to live with them together. After they were married, Lawler would take Qin to the school where she taught dance every day. He even did most of the housework.

However, everything changed one year later. Lawler began to have mistresses and often visited prostitutes. The peace of the family had been broken.

According to Qin, Lawler treated her worse and worse, and started to become violent. He began to bring women home, have sex with them in the bedroom and force Qin to sleep in the living room.

In December 1999, Qin became pregnant with triplets through artificial insemination. One day when she was four months pregnant, she was very tired but Lawler brought a prostitute home and demanded that Qin cook for them. Qin asked him to take the woman out of their home, and said that she was too tired and wanted to lie in bed to have a rest. Lawler grabbed her hair and beat her. She tried to escape, but he kicked her in the belly and only stopped when he saw blood beneath her body. An ambulance came and took Qin to the hospital. She was saved, but the triplets had to be aborted.

According to Qin, since she married Lawler, more than ten women had sex with him in their home. She told Lawler she wanted a divorce, but whenever she mentioned it Lawler would kneel down to beg for her forgiveness and swear to "correct his errors". However, he would soon return to his old ways afterwards. Sometimes, Lawler would threaten to kill her if she mentioned divorce again.

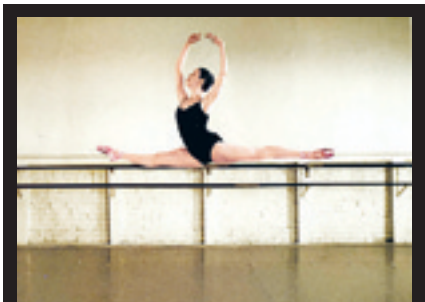
### Blinded

At the beginning of last summer, Lawler took a new mistress, a Philippine American. This time, Qin found a job teaching dance in Washington DC and began to pack her bags with her son.

At 2 am in the morning of July 28,



Lee Lawler, a martial arts enthusiast



Qin used to be a ballet dancer



Qin showed her bruises to Duowei Times

2003, Qin was in bed. Lawler came back home and tore off the telephone line. He then went into the toilet and came out with some liquid which he threw in her face.

Qin's mother rushed into bedroom, and tried to pull him aside. She got down on her knees to beg him for mercy, while Lawler continued to pour the liquid over Qin.

Qin's 16-year-old son Zhang Liao (Josh Zhang) heard his mother calling for help and rushed into the room as well. Lawler kicked him heavily in the belly and the boy fell down and lost consciousness after his head struck the wall. When he woke up, Qin urged him to get help. Meanwhile, Lawler was threatening to kill them if they called 911.

Zhang called out to the neighbors for help, but no one came out. Later they told *Duowei Times* that they had become used to such disturbances and knew that Qin had been maltreated very often. The police had come several times. As neighbors, they didn't want to intervene, but this time they called 911 from their home.

The police came and summoned an ambulance straight away. Qin and her son were taken to Kaiser Permanente Hospital. The doctor told Qin that Zhang's kidneys were badly damaged and that his head was wounded badly as well, causing nerve damage. Now the boy is still receiving neurological treatment.

As for Qin, she was wounded severely in her head and body and was barely able to walk for weeks. But the most severe damage was to her eyes: her seeing became more and more blurred. Now she's completely blind.

### No sympathy from the court

Qin was born in Liaoning. In 1982,

she went to Beijing and danced with the China Oriental Song and Dance Ensemble, a renowned Chinese art troupe. In 1986, she gave birth to Josh Zhang with her former boyfriend who did not marry her. She married Chen, a Chinese American in 1990 and came to the US in the same year. They lived in San Francisco and Qin got a green card in 1992.

After they married, Qin often came back to China and danced with the China Oriental Song and Dance Ensemble. In 1995, the couple divorced in Chaoyang Court, Beijing.

In June this year, Qin's divorce case was heard in court. On June 11, Kathleen McKenna, commissioner of the court of San Bruno, decided that her marriage with Lawler was "ineffective", since the Chinese divorce certification with Chen was "inauthentic", and Qin's marriage with Lawler was "bigamy" and "cheating". So Qin, her mother and son were simply ordered to move out of Lawler's house before June 30.

Qin couldn't believe the sentence. She was a little less surprised when an investigation by *Duowei Times* found that Kathleen McKenna was a personal friend of Lawler's. Besides, according to *Duowei Times*, Chinese divorce documents should be recognized under American law, but McKenna provided no explanation as to why she judged that Qin's documents were ineffective.

Furthermore, according to state law in California, if a couple have been together for four years, their relationship cannot be called bigamy, even if one side was married before without getting a divorce.

What made things worse was that Lawler still sent people to attack Qin. On June 26, when her family came back from hospital, a white car stopped beside them. A man jumped out and kicked Qin several times before getting back in the car and leaving. The three people, an old woman, Qin, and her sick son, could not resist at all.

"I tried to call police for help, but to no effect," Qin told *Duowei Times*.

She also told *Duowei Times* that earlier in June, two women knocked on her door and claimed they were policewomen. Qin opened the door, but the two women attacked her and then ran. Neighbors recorded the number of the car the two women got into and called the police. The two were arrested but were freed the next day.

In July, with the help of Cameron House, a social service center in San Francisco, Qin, her mother and her son moved to a new home. Since the address was unknown to Lawler, she told *Duowei Times* that she felt more relaxed there.

With the help of Cameron House and the Chinese Consulate General in San Francisco, her suit for divorce will continue in San Bruno court on August 12. However, the commissioner of the court is still Kathleen McKenna.

"I don't expect much," said Qin to *Duowei Times*. "I only hope that the court can grant us a proper divorce."

(Source: *Duowei Times*)

## Taxi Crisis in Yinchuan

By Wang Fang

On the morning of August 3, people in Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, were relieved to discover that they could take taxis again, following a four-day strike by local drivers.

### New regulations

From July 30 to August 2, taxi drivers in Yinchuan went on strike and kept on appealing to the government to help them. The cause of their anger was two new regulations, the "Administrative Measure of Paid Use of the Management Right of the Taxis in Yinchuan" and the "New Administrative Regulation of Taxis in Yinchuan" on July 28. These two new policies stipulate that the management right of taxis in Yinchuan must be paid for in accordance with strict rules. They were introduced partly as a response to difficulties in collecting payment in the past. The regulations said taxi owners would have to pay what was judged to be the current market rate of 3,600 yuan per year. Those who did not pay would be considered to have given up their management rights. In addition, the regulations stipulated that taxis had to have engines of at least 1.6 litres, or ones with smaller engines would have to be fitted with clean fuel equipment. It was also required that the colour of taxis should conform with the rules.

The taxi drivers in Yinchuan saw the new policies as a method of limiting their access to management rights, and that the new price was too high. They said their profits would be harmed by the new policies, so they started to strike and appealed to the authorities to resolve this problem.

### The explanation from the government

Bai Jianping, secretary-general of Yinchuan government, explained to *Ningxia Daily* that the previous system had been inadequate. He said that in 1998, there were 150 taxis which had obtained management rights at auction, but the fees had not been paid by the due date of March 2004. However, due to the lack of publicizing of the rules and relatively loose administration, a number of drivers had bought the taxis from the previous owners without knowing that the high management fees were due. This resulted in a group appeal in March 2004. In order to avoid unfair competition, Yinchuan government met with the managers and representatives of the taxi companies and came up with these two policies in order to state clearly the time limit for acquiring and paying for taxi management rights.

Bai also said the strike was due partly to the misunderstanding of the taxi drivers. "They believed that as long as they obtained management rights for their taxis and paid the money for it on time, they could have the management rights forever. But according to Chinese legal practice, the management right for taxis is a public resource which should be obtained and renewed according to market competition." He also stressed that many cities in China also had such regulations.

In view of the opinions stated by the taxi drivers, the government issued "Yinchuan People's Government Circular" on July 30 which said that the two new policies would not be carried out after all. The government also called on the taxi drivers to go back to work.

### The response from the taxi drivers

After hearing the explanation and the Circular from the government, most of the taxi drivers happily returned to their posts.



Many Taxis put up notices saying "out of service"

On August 3, in Haoshun Taxi Company, the working team from the government and the administration staff in the company were having their third round of meetings with the taxi drivers. The chief manager, Zhou Deliang said, "Most of our taxi drivers started to work today and I feel really relieved now." He said everyone was happy to see that the taxis were back on the street. Zhou said the strike helped him realize how important it was to help drivers get to know about the administrative regulations regarding taxi business. In Yinchuan, people regard taxis as the "the Name Card of the City". According to Zhou, his focus in future work was to make this "Name Card" more beautiful and impressive.

The Pengda and Zhongbei Taxi Companies also said that most of their taxi drivers returned to work on August 2.

While most taxi drivers had gone on strike, a few had continued to work, risking the wrath of their fellow drivers and other troublemakers. A driver named Ma was one who decided to keep working. She said, "I understood the government's policies and I knew our taxi business was related to the image of Yinchuan. I trust the government because they will not treat us unfairly."

Another driver called Xiao Wang said, "Actually, we did not want to stay at home since we had to make a living. But we were afraid that if we drove our taxis out, they would be smashed up. I feel happy now because I can start my business again and also provide service to local people and guests from other places."

However, there was some violence during the strike, and a few taxi drivers blocked streets and smashed about 40 taxis and small buses. Ren Gaomin, the director of the legal committee of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, commented that the Chinese constitution did not allow for citizens to go on strike. The operators who have management rights for public services that are specially permitted by the government are bound to implement their legal duty to serve the public, he said. He said by rights, the taxi drivers ought to face punishment for their behaviour. He also mentioned that four of the people involved in the violence had been caught by the police.

### The response from the people

At the gate of Yinchuan Women and Children's Health Care Hospital, Ms. Wang who was six months pregnant said, "It was convenient for me to take a taxi to come to the hospital to have routine checks. During the strike, I could only take buses and I had to worry a lot about the safety of my baby. I'm glad the government has reached a settlement with the taxi drivers."

Most of the local people believe the taxi drivers should find a better means to deal with their problems instead of going on strike. They feel it caused a lot of trouble and also harmed the image of Yinchuan.



Policemen kept order during the strike



By Zhang Huan

Gao Zhipeng is about to complete his studies at the Academy of Chinese Traditional Opera where he has studied for four years. For this blind student, it's been a period full of hard work and many difficulties. But Gao, 30, has known that his would be a different life ever since he lost his eyesight at the age of six. And though his studies haven't been easy, it's better than the life he used to have.

#### Knowing the music

Gao comes from the mountainous area of Luliang, in Shanxi Province. A happy country boy, he was called Huzi, or little tiger, by his family, as he was born in the year of the tiger. At the age of six, his aunt found that his pupils were bigger than those of other children and at night he seemed to move more slowly. The family became anxious, so his father went to work in an iron mine and made 100 yuan in order to take Huzi to a hospital in Taiyuan, the capital city of Shanxi. To this day, he remembers the winter day when he arrived at Taiyuan. It was snowing in the morning and the light from the truck made the ground shine white. Unfortunately, the medical treatment failed and Huzi completely lost his sight.

The heaviest blow for Huzi was that he now could not go to school. When his sister, who was two years younger than him, went to school, he could not stay calm. Every morning when he heard her getting up, he would also get up and follow her to school. He sat outside the classroom and listened. In winter, his two hands became frostbitten. The teacher went to see his family and told his father, "take him away, he sits at the door every day." Sadly, the father told his son, "you are different from other children. But I will teach you to play *erhu*."

After that, Huzi tended sheep at daytime and learned *erhu* in the evening after his father came back from fieldwork. At night, Huzi took the *erhu* to the flood land to practice by himself and nobody could stop him. When he finally learned to play his first melody, he rolled around with joy, even though his clothes and skin got scratched. Still, one problem was that he could not read the music score. So his father poured melted pitch and wax into a wooden box and used a nail to sculpt music notes so Huzi could learn them from touch. In this way, he learned to play *Moon on the Water*, a classic piece of music for *erhu*.

#### A countryside band

When Huzi was 13 years old, his grandmother died and the family invited a countryside band to play at the ceremony. The head of the band heard that Huzi could play *erhu* and asked him to join in. After Huzi finished playing a piece, the head proposed taking him on as an apprentice. Huzi's father knew that even a normal person could only make a difficult living from farming, not to mention a blind child. To perform in a band might be a way out for Huzi. So he agreed and also decided



Gao walks quickly around the campus, without the aid of a stick.

Photos by Wang Wei

## Saved by Music

He once played with a countryside band, and was a helpless street performer who was rejected time and again by schools he applied to. He became the first blind student at the Academy of Chinese Traditional Opera thanks to his passion and talent for music.

to give Huzi a more proper-sounding name, Gao Zhipeng.

Though he could not see anything, Gao learned quickly. The other normal children in the band even became jealous and would sometimes pour their leftovers into his bowl. But this had no effect on Gao's enthusiasm for learning music. He branched out from *erhu* and learned to play *suona*, *sheng*, *xiao*, and drum and learned a number of folk songs. Soon everyone in the local area knew his name.

Gao decided to start his own band at the age of 15. His father bought him several musical instruments and he headed out with another eight members to look for performance opportunities. He soon found there was no shortage of demand, and he even organized for other bands to perform at certain events. Still, life was not easy for Gao and his band. They often had to travel a long way to the place they were asked to perform and Gao's legs often got scratched up by the stones when he had to make his way across rivers and mountains. When crossing the Yellow River on one occasion in winter, the boat could not get to the other side so the band had to walk through the mud to the bank. "I did not come for money but for school"

Gao's elder brother bought him a radio set, which helped Gao get to know about the outside world. He gradually decided that his band was only a way of making a living but not a way to realize his dream of becoming a real musician. One time he went to a local town to attend a Karaoke contest and he came first. A person working in the county cultural center said to him, "you have the talent. It would be a pity if you don't go to school. There is a school for blind people in Taiyuan." These words struck a cord in Gao's heart. He left his band and told his parents that he was going out and he would never come back if he could not succeed. He was 18 years old that year.

But Gao's family was afraid for him and would not allow him to leave. So he came up with a story for his parents, telling them instead that he was going out to buy some musical instruments. He eventually left home with his *erhu*, a simple package and 80 yuan. Nine hours' bus journey later, he arrived in Taiyuan, the city of shining white in his memory. Gao was able to make his way to the medical school which enrolled blind students. But he was told that his age exceeded the limit and that he had not taken the entrance examination so he could not be enrolled. Gao felt helpless and did not know what to do. He sat on the sidewalk and began playing his *erhu*. Some people gave him



Gao's teacher in Taiyuan, Sun Jinyan, comes to Beijing to visit him.

some money, but he told them, "I did not come to make money but to go to school."

Some people suggested that Gao go to the Disabled Person's Federation, so he tried it. His passion for music moved the chairman who wrote an introduction letter to the School for the Blind and Gao was finally enrolled to study massage based on traditional Chinese medicine.

#### Help from the schoolmaster

One and a half years after Gao joined the school, a new teacher named Sun Jinyan arrived. Though busy with her work, she soon noticed the student who always sang songs with a guitar on the campus by daytime and studied by himself in the classroom at night. Once she assigned a piece of homework for every student, which was to choose a favorite song and write new lyrics for it to express their true feelings and dreams. Gao gave her a surprise. He handed in a song composed all by himself, named "White Cloud". Sun was impressed by the beautiful melody. Following her encouragement to write more, Gao composed another song named "Words in my Heart". The song was recommended by the school to Shanxi People's Radio and got the first prize in a composition contest that year.

After two years' study, it was time for Gao to graduate. Sun suggested that Gao stay at the school to study middle school classes in preparation for going to the College of Special Education of Changchun University. And at the same time, she said, Gao could work as the instructor of the school band and earn a salary of 100 yuan a month, enough to cover his living.

#### The dream of going to college

In 1995, Gao set out for Changchun with great enthusiasm, hoping to continue his musical education. But he was rejected. Sun tried her best to help, taking Gao's songs to all kinds of activities and recommending them to various different people. In 1999, the chairman of a German

association aiding visually impaired Chinese students heard about Gao and proposed to help him go to college in Germany. But because of the language problem, it was decided to find a college for Gao in China. The Academy of Chinese Traditional Opera finally accepted him.

Coming to a new campus, Gao needed time to get used to it. One night, he could not find the teaching building where the practicing room was. Suddenly, he heard the sound of high-heeled shoes in front of him. He followed the sound, hoping it would lead him to the building. However, the girl in the high heels saw a strange man in sunglasses following her so she began screaming and ran to the teaching building. The watchman of the building saw Gao and smiled. He comforted the girl, saying "he is not a bad man, he is a new student, named Gao Zhipeng."

Gao's classmates often bought food for him and helped him get through the campus. When Gao got to the classroom, they offered their seats for him, and they wouldn't let him take part in the regular cleaning of the classroom. However, this special treatment made Gao feel uncomfortable. Later when his classmates offered help, he refused and told them he wanted to manage by himself. Now, four years later, Gao's caring classmates are used to seeing him walking quite quickly around the campus, even without the aid of a stick.

As a blind student, Gao has had to put in more effort and enthusiasm to make the same progress as his classmates. He's become used to working with Braille. But he's always kept in mind the words his teacher told him: "You can get special treatment in living but never in learning. As long as you are here, you should try to learn as well as others."

In four years, Gao has had almost no holidays. Besides taking classes, he has spent all the time practicing musical instruments and listening to recordings. The difficulties only influence his speed, but not his determination to achieve. Having realized his dream of going to college, Gao is now planning a solo concert to thank all the people who helped him make it this far. In the concert, he will sing and play his own music to express his understanding of life.



Photos by Tian Xiaotong





Yesterday



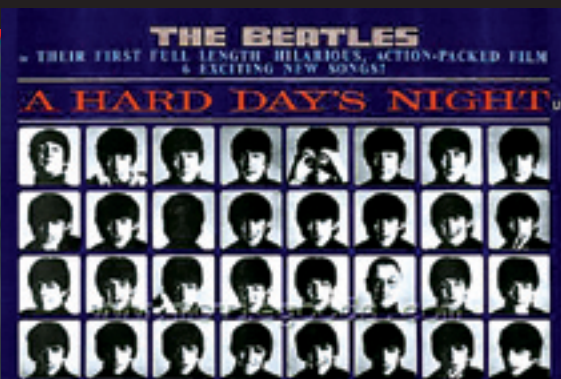
Beijing Rocks



The School of Rock



8 Mile



# Rocking into the Cinema

By Jessie Jiang

The world of cinema is a far cry from that of rock'n'roll. While the former can and often excels at leading the audience to a private, quiet corner for a self-reflective moment, the latter tends to drown out any possibility of introspection. The marriage of the two is thus often an uneasy one.

Since the first "rock'n'roll movies" were made in the 1950s, though, many still prove to be memorable. Though not always landmarks of history, they have left a rich legacy of rock'n'roll culture. From *A Hard Day's Night* to *The Doors*, from *Dirt* to *Beijing Rocks*, rock'n'roll movies can be seen as a footnote to the ethos of changing times and societies.

## Growing up in Rock: Spirit of Youth

The birth of rock'n'roll was a perfect metaphor for the rise of the working class youth on the social stage. When the first "rock kids" broke the rules of their schools and parents to express themselves in a new type of music, their stories also made good screen prototypes.

From the first ever inclusion of rock'n'roll songs in a movie in 1955's *Blackboard Jungle* and the appearance of Elvis Presley in *Love Me Tender* in 1956, to the largely musical *Go, Johnny, Go* featuring Chuck Berry, Eddie Cochran and Richie Valens in 1958, rock'n'roll has become the perfect soundtrack for teenage tales.

In the Beatles' 1964 hit *A Hard Day's Night*, named for the song, the spirit of youthful independence and innocence was even more vividly expressed by the Fab Four in their mischievous defiance of the establishment.

A similar spirit has transcended time and space to many other rock-connected movies. The disruptive power of rock'n'roll upon the docile school environment of *Blackboard Jungle* and *Dead Poets' Society* was revamped in the 2003 movie *School of Rock*, with a stronger touch of humor and fun.

Across the Pacific, the triumph of alternative life over traditions and stereotypes as is represented in *8 Mile* or even the oldie *Breakin* and

rock'n'roll culture.

*The Doors* (1991) is also a great masterpiece in this line. Stringing the stories of the band from its beginning to the end, it successfully makes use of repetitive motifs to reveal a rich but chaotic universe of subconscious that underlies the genius of Jim Morrison, who gave his band a name from the mystic poet William Blake: "If the doors of perception were cleaned, all things would appear infinite."

"Is there wind blowing/ in the depth of light?" questioned the hero in the film *Beijing Rocks* in a like approach to depth and infinity. Maybe on the philosophical level many rock artists have tried the same path, putting themselves in the hands of a blindfolded muse, heading towards the great unknown. But alas, the silver screen is too narrow and secular to follow this journey, not to mention the great editor of reality.

## Rock and Reality: Clash of Values

The shadow of reality could not be more deeply imprinted on Chinese rock'n'roll movies. In a country where the genre of music has had only 20 years to evolve and is rapidly falling prey to a massive consumerist culture, the attempts to present rock'n'roll in movies inevitably seems a little weak.

Heavy stress is laid on the hard life of misunderstood rock musicians, or the rapid change of cities with obvious symbols of contrast and disparity, whereas the inner rhythm and inward exploration crucial to a great rock'n'roll movie is often given less attention or overlooked all together. Nonetheless, the very few Chinese rock'n'roll movies still stand as good witnesses to the rise and fall of Chinese subcultures, and testifies to the perpetual clash of values in Chinese society between a materialistic mass and elitist artists.

In *Dirt* (*Tou Fa Luan Le*, or *The Hair is Ruffled*), the heroine swings between the love of a rock musician and a police officer; in *Beijing Bastards* (*Bei Jing Za Zhong*), the girlfriend of a musician hesitates over whether or not to have his baby; in *Beijing Rocks* (*Bei Jing Le Yu Lu*), the impoverished protagonist crashes into an overladen truck; in *Yesterday* (*Zuo Tian*), the drug-addicted rock star finds himself still the son of two caring parents... Permeating these films is a strong sense of pressure from the tight web of Chinese culture, doubly informed by the burden of history and starkness of reality, a web that no actual Chinese rock'n'roll bands has managed to transcend yet.

One couldn't talk about Chinese rock'n'roll without mentioning Cui Jian, whose pioneer breakthrough songs include *A Piece of Red Cloth* (*Yi Kuai Hong Bu*) and *Havin' Nothing* (*Yi Wu Suo You*). Having starred in the films of *Beijing Bastards* and *Roots and Branches* (*Wo De Xiong Di Jie Mei*, or *My Sisters and Brothers*), Cui is said to be planning to direct a film on rock'n'roll.

Jim Morrison said, "Rock is dead." While real rock'n'roll often focuses on tragedy and rebellion, what should we expect for the next rock'n'roll films? Should they be entertaining, like Hollywood blockbusters, or soul-searching? Could they distinguish themselves from commercial music videos or pulp fiction? Maybe only time will tell, after all, both cinema and rock'n'roll are nothing but cultural expressions of their times, the most essential thing to take, then, is a rocking heart in ourselves.

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## What's on DVD

By Jiang Haoshu



## Audrey Hepburn Story

A biography of Audrey Hepburn, one of the most unforgettable women ever born. Starring Jennifer Love Hewitt, the DVD consists of two parts illustrating the life of the actress. 2 DVD 5, English with Chinese and English subtitles.



## The Lower Depths

Jean Renoir and Akira Kurosawa, two of cinema's greatest directors, transform Maxim Gorky's classic play in their own ways, in 1936 and 1957. 2 DVD 5, with enhanced image quality and special features. French, Japanese with English and Chinese subtitles.



## SHREK 3-D

Apart from expectations of good fun courtesy of the original *Shrek*, the idea of wearing 3-D glasses to watch this comedy is irresistible. Also includes trailers, technical goofs, commentaries and a "karaoke dance party." 2 DVD 9, English with French, Spanish, English and Chinese subtitles.



## 2004 College Theatre Festival Kicks Off

By Yu Shanshan

Every summer since 2001, college students in Beijing have staged their own drama festival. With the support of some tireless theatergoers in Beijing, young drama enthusiasts find an oasis to show off their dreams and ideas. At previous festivals, the students' productions were often overshadowed in the media by arguments among critics and even quarrels about performances and administrative conflicts between organizers, students and audiences. What

this year's festival will bring is anyone's guess.

As in the past, the venues for the fourth Student Drama Festival will be North Theatre at Jiadaokou, the Mini Theatre of Beijing People's Art Theatre (south of Capital Theatre) and the Mini Theatre of the National Theatre Company of China (45 Mao'er Hutong, Di'anmen). From tonight till August 22, students from 28 universities and colleges from around the country will hit the stage with a total of 31 plays.

Campus life, stories from

history and legend, and social problems are the three major themes.

This year sees participation from a number of professional drama student theater groups, including four from the Central Academy of Drama, the Shanghai Theatre Academy, the Academy of Chinese Traditional Opera, and the Theatre school of Jilin College of Arts.

Tickets are free, but it is necessary to book. For the festival program, check out [www.n-theatre.com/xjj2004/03.htm](http://www.n-theatre.com/xjj2004/03.htm)

Photo by Jason

## Rock Review

## Wang Feng Flies Higher

By Wang Yao

Wang Feng released his third solo album, *Xiao Zhe Ku (Crying while Smiling)* this June, his first album since signing with Warner Music early this year.

According to Wang, his inspiration to write the hit title track came from Xu Xiaofeng, president of Warner Music China, whose happy and sad tears in business and life made Wang see the true mental state of a man. If his former two albums, 2000's *Hua Huo (Sparks)* and *Ai Shi Yihe Xinfu De Zidan (Love is a Happy Bullet)*, released in 2002, were symbolic of his un-

certainty, *Crying With Smiling* may be a new start, in terms of music style and lyrics. In this album, Wang sings of his appreciation for his parents, life, love and ideals. Xiao Fan, from E-band and Jia Tienan on guitar provide a sound musical backdrop for Wang.

*Fei De Geng Gao (Fly Higher)* is an impressive number, with Wang's hoarse vocals describing the difficulties and accomplishments of life, and a chorus that repeats "I wanna fly further, though wings confront the storms, heart is whooping and I wanna fly further." In *Sheng-*



*ming Zhong de Yi Tian (One day in My Life)*, the keyboard drives the bass and drums, pushing the music into one groove after another, though there is a distinct flavor of *Every Breath You Take* by the Police.

## WORLDWIDE

## Aussie Star Bana Next 007?

L O N - DON - Australian actor Eric Bana, star of *The Hulk* and *Troy*, is the surprise new choice to take over as James Bond, according to a *News of the World* report.

The beefy 35-year-old had beaten off competition from British actors Jude Law and Ewan McGregor to take over the role of the super-spy in the long-running series of films, the report said.

Bana was said to be still negotiating with the series producers, but they were hopeful he would take over for the 21st title in the series, due to begin filming later this year, the paper cited an unnamed "insider" as saying.

The news seems to have taken Bana himself by surprise. Questioned about the rumors during a radio interview, he said "It's kinda baffling to me. I've said, like, a million times I wouldn't do it. It's never, ever, ever been something we've had a discussion about." (AP)



Eric Bana

## William Hung Debuts in Asia

H O N G KONG - William Hung, who shot to instant fame as a reject on the US talent show *American Idol*, has debuted in Asia at a Macau casino.

Accompanied by sexy dancers in red tube tops, the Hong Kong-born singer belted out his most famous hit - an off-key rendition of Ricky Martin's *She Bangs* - at Kam Pek casino in Macau, local media reported Sunday.

"I don't mind having some people ridicule me," Hung was quoted as saying in the *South China Morning Post*.

Hung, a 21-year-old civil engineering student at the University of California at Berkeley, became famous after he responded to the mockery of *American Idol* judges by saying that he had done his best and had no regrets.

He went on to sign a singing contract with Fuse Music Network and Koch Records.

Asked why he thinks he's at-



William Hung

tractive, Hung told *Apple Daily*, "I can dance and I'm sincere."

Hung, who has inspired fanclubs and websites that sing his praises, now spends most of his time touring to promote his debut album, *Inspiration*, which has sold more than 100,000 copies. (AP)

## Nicolas Cage Marries for Third Time

LOS ANGELES - Oscar-winning actor Nicolas Cage has married for the third time. The *Leaving Las Vegas* star wed 20-year-old Alice Kim on Friday at a private ceremony on a ranch in Northern California, publicist Annett Wolf told the Associated Press.

It is the third wedding for Cage, 40, who split with his previous wife Lisa Marie Presley after less than four months in 2002. Before that, he was married for six years to actress Patricia Arquette.

Kim, a former sushi waitress, met Cage when the actor visited the Los Angeles restaurant where she worked. This is her first marriage.

They started dating in February and reportedly became engaged after about two months. (AP)

## Jackman Recording Jazz Album

Australian actor Hugh Jackman is planning to branch out into the music world by recording a jazz-based album. The X-Men hunk - who recently won a Tony Award for his performance as Peter Allen in acclaimed Broadway production *The Boy From Oz* - is currently working on the project with musician Richard Marx.

"I love working with him," Marx says, "The only problem is that between his Broadway show schedule and my schedule, we're just having a hard time finding time to get in the studio. We're doing tunes like the old Charlie Chaplin song *Smile, Ole Black Magic, Beyond The Sea* and an updated arrangement of the Beatles' *And I Love Her* that's really amazing." (IMDB)



Hugh Jackman

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By Xie Lixue

While many domestic firms scoff at the idea of internships, international computing giant IBM aggressively pursues the other direction through its "Extreme Blue" program. That global course, aimed at cultivating top talent in the IT field fresh from university, kicked off in the US in 1999 and was brought to China in 2002.

This year's domestic program started on July 13 and runs through September 30, providing innovative training to teams of some of China's most promising young IT professionals.

The latest incarnation of "Extreme Blue" began with a national online application process, in which IBM heard from thousands of young people across China hungry for one of the coveted intern spots. After three months of examinations and interviews, the field was narrowed down to 20 finalists.

Interns have been divided into three teams to tackle projects on the themes of "social network", "Blue Gateway: exploring in the spring of wisdom" and "VoIP-enabling for online games". All teams are operating out of IBM technology centers with veteran IT professionals serving as their mentors.

Program concepts

Most major Chinese companies have been reluctant to start internship programs, worrying students or recent graduates would have minimal ability to produce meaningful results and, more worrisome, could get access to and disclose corporate secrets.

IBM seems to have no such fears and its "Extreme Blue"

# IBM Interns Brought up to Speed in "Extreme Blue"



The interns were receiving training program at IBM China Research Laboratory in Beijing last month. Photo by IT World

program has a track record of great success.

Interns in "Extreme Blue" are introduced to IBM corporate philosophy of innovation, development and continuous transformation - also known as the "Blue Spirit" - helping to convince new generations of employees to the merits of the ideas. Running such a program also allows the company to access budding talent and take an active hand in selecting and grooming its future employees.

Interns speak

Shen Yi, who holds an MBA degree from Qinghua University,

said, "I am the leader of team two. Seven people in my group have master's degrees.

"My university recommended me, but unlike in the past two years of the program, I also had to take part in the examination round. The written tests were all in English and included math and logic questions. The interviews were more focused on experience, understanding and analytical abilities - for example, I was asked to break down a topic I knew nothing about.

"Working in the IBM research center, I can personally feel the innovative spirit at IBM. Our mentors instruct us to consider a project's potential value, no matter how raw or problematic it may be. Our project is a real challenge for me, because I have to consider the whole team and guide everyone in the right direction."

Team one member Liu Guo-wei holds a master's in computer science from Shanghai Jiaotong University.

"I applied for the internship program through the Internet,"



Photo by Photocom

he said.

"The paper tests included so much reading that nobody could finish all of it. The interviews were done in two rounds. The first tested standard abilities like English and communication skills, while the second checked our technical abilities and were done by the mentors in charge of the three projects.

"So far, I have learned that IBM has very advanced technology, a communicative environment, and the group nature of

work means exchange of ideas is very important.

"After the internship... I hope to stay at IBM, but I am sure that either way being part of this program will help me find a good job."

Both interns noted that more than half of the program participants held advanced degrees. Yet there are still people like Ou Qingxiang, who holds a bachelor's degree in computer science - proof that IBM's focus is on fresh and rising talent in China.

## Training Trends

### Get in the Game!

Just in time for the opening of summer blockbuster *Spider-Man 2*, "Spidey" fans can get an extra fix through the new Sony PS2 game of the same name.

Movies and computer games have driven each other's development for years, but these days some game titles end up more popular than their film partners. That is just one indicator this is prime time to get into the exploding field of game development, and a new course opened in town offers just the resources needed to break into the red-hot industry.

The Electronic Education Center of China's Ministry of Information Industry is working together with the Hong Kong Vocational Training

Council and Beijing-based Huizhongyizhi Science and Technology Corp. to launch a new game training program on August 20 that should be the most authoritative of its kind in China.

Applicants are expected to have more than simply enough money to pay tuition. One key to admission is a test of Boolean search capabilities, passage of which will allow students to enroll in courses on such subjects as game truss design, 3D game design, mobile-phone game exploitation and on-line game design.

Tuition fees for the 420 hour program are 15,000 yuan per student. Courses are conducted on weekends, meaning the program should take approximately six months to complete.

(By Ruan Ying)

## Job Hunting:

The New Century High School in Zhuozhou (60 kilometers south of Beijing), Hebei Province, is looking for native English speakers to teach English part-time. Students and teachers from the UK, US and Australia are welcome. Chinese capability preferred. Four classes each month. Workloads and wages open to discussion.

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(Edited by Xie Lixue)

(You are welcome to send positions offered and wanted info to: ayi@ynet.com.

Beijing Today does not take responsibility for the accuracy and authenticity of the information published.)

## Corporate HR

### CITIC Auto: Cradle for Car Pros

By Xie Lixue

On Wednesday, Ms. Zheng Huaijin, human resources director for CITIC Automobile Company talked with *Beijing Today* about the enterprise's recruitment policies and training system.

**Beijing Today: When do you usually announce recruitment campaigns and how do you do it?**

**Zheng Huaijin:** We prefer to hire university graduates who are energetic and open-minded, so we normally put out recruiting advertisements on the website of ChinaHR at the end of the year to give senior students time to prepare.

**BT: During interviews, what kinds of questions are asked and what are the main focuses of discussion?**

**Zheng:** After looking at applicants' resumes, I always ask them to give brief reviews of their experiences. In that, I look for things I like, such as experience leading school clubs or internships. To get a sense of candidates' personalities and levels of maturity, I normally ask questions about larger social issues. We consider applicants as a whole, so their university scores are just a small part, though we do look closely at their English marks.

In our company, English ability, both spoken and written, is the most important factor in our final decision. Our main area of business is communicating with foreign automobile and automotive accessory companies, in order to establish trade between Chinese auto factories and foreign automotive firms. Our employees have to be competent in English - it would look ridiculous if they had to bring translators with them to negotiations with foreign partners.

**BT: What kind of training do you provide employees?**

**Zheng:** We ask our experienced senior staff to instruct and direct new employees, particularly when it comes to understanding the automotive field and China's development. We also offer employees many chances to learn from foreign automotive companies, for example getting them in contact with foreign experts who come to China to inspect or oversee the establishment of production lines.

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BEIJING TODAY  
今日北京

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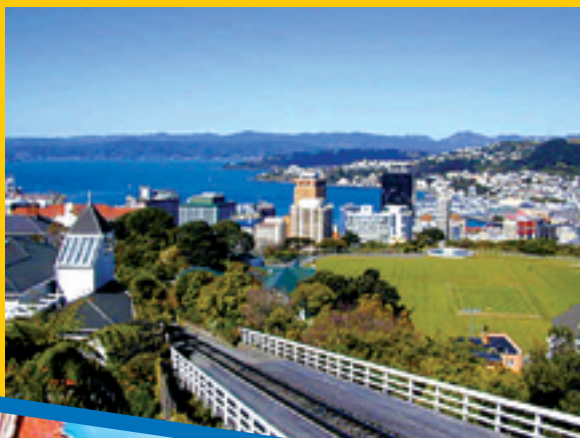
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## Focus on New Zealand:



## Victoria University of Wellington - A Well-Rounded Choice

Victoria University is one of the oldest and most credible of New Zealand's eight universities, according to Mr. Neil Quigley, pro vice-chancellor (international) of the university.

As the first guest in *Beijing Today's* Focus on New Zealand activities, Mr. Quigley chatted online Monday with our readers in the Study Abroad Salon from his office in Wellington.

During Focus on New Zealand, Beijing Today will invite vice chancellors from the country's eight universities to introduce their institutions and reply to questions from our readers.

You are welcome to log in to <http://bjtoday.ynet.com> to join in the live chats every Monday in August from 1 pm to 2 pm, or to review the transcripts. You are also welcome to forward questions to the host, Ayi, at: [ayi@ynet.com](mailto:ayi@ynet.com).

### Academic strengths:

**What are the academic strengths of your university?**

—hostayi

We are a comprehensive university. We offer certificates in nearly all subjects except medicine, engineering and agriculture.

Our focuses are on law and commerce, social sciences and humanities, and the fundamental sciences. We also have very strong and innovative programs in archi-



Neil Quigley, pro vice-chancellor (international) of Victoria University of Wellington.

itecture and design, and tourism.

**Do you have any academic and research centers?**

—JackieZhang

We, in partnership with the University of Canterbury, host the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials and Nano-technology under the government-funded Center of Research Excellence (CoRE).

One of Victoria's applied research centers, the Center for Biodiscovery, works on projects in proteomics-based biology and biotechnology.

The New Zealand Electronic Text Center is the University's research center devoted to XML-based electronic publishing and the development of online libraries.

**What is the ranking of your university?**

—rose007

The New Zealand Tertiary Education Commission recently conducted an exercise to rank the research in different disciplines at the tertiary institutions in New Zealand.

Overall, on the basis of the rankings across all individual subjects, the top three universities were Auckland, Canterbury and Victoria, with Victoria ranking third out of the eight universities.

**Do you offer any courses in China?**

—greentea

From October this year we will offer MBAs in Hong Kong in partnership with the Asia Pacific Institute of Business at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Aside from that we do not offer courses in China.

### Applications:

**How many semesters do you have? What is the best time for students to apply?**

—gorrila

We offer courses in three trimesters:

1. March 1 - June 25;
2. July 15 - November 10;
3. November 15 - February 12.

Courses offered over the third (summer) trimester are limited. Students are encouraged to enroll in the first and second semesters, when the full range of course options is available.

This means students should apply in October or November to start on March 1 of the following year.

**Many Chinese students are complaining that tuition fees and living costs are soaring in New Zealand.**

—lastsamuri

We did not increase international student fees at all last year, and for next year the increase is only two to three percent, which is in line with inflation.

Overall, and even with increases in fees at some universities, the cost of university education here remains 15 to 20 percent below that in Australia for degrees of equivalent quality.

### Life and study on campus:

**How many Chinese are studying in your university? Do you have quotas?**

—titani

We have around 600 students from China, 30 percent of the total international student body here. This is the largest single group of international students.

We have no quota on Chinese students. We do have a limitation on international students as a whole (no more than 16 percent of all students).

**How are your libraries, and how many books do they contain?**

—rose007

The university has several libraries, including specialist libraries for our law and architecture faculties.

The main library provides a large number of books and journals, and desks.

It is more important today, than the number of the books, that the library contains many electronic databases.

The most important role of the library today is to assist students to use web and electronic databases to find the information they need.

### Part-time jobs and employment:

**Can international students find part-time jobs?**

—bluesky

Students can work for up to 15 hours per week so long as they request this when they apply for their student visas.

In Wellington, it is relatively easy to find a part-time job. A lot of students have part-time jobs in cafes, restaurants and other places where they earn NZ\$9 to NZ\$10 per hour.

**What is the situation for employment after graduation?**

—yappie

Students may stay and work in New Zealand once they graduate if they can obtain a job offer.

The New Zealand government encourages top quality international students to consider staying and working in New Zealand.

**Does your university offer internship opportunities?**

—monkeyking

We provide internship opportunities in degrees like tourism, architecture, design, heritage studies and information technology, as students are required to obtain some work experience as part of their degree program.

### Security:

**Some Chinese students have been victims of crimes in New Zealand. Can you explain that?**

—hostayi

Over 20,000 students from China are studying in New Zealand. The incidents of crimes against them are very small.

At Victoria University of Wellington, we monitor the academic progress of international students and we interview any student not making satisfactory progress. This is an important way in which we can identify students who may potentially be having problems or may be in danger of becoming involved in criminal activities. It allows us to help those students before problems actually arise.

(Edited by Zhang Nan)

### Notice

Dr. Peter Oettli, pro vice-chancellor (international) of the University of Waikato, will be the second guest in Focus on New Zealand at *Beijing Today's* Study Abroad Salon.

Time: 1-2pm, Monday, August 9

### 通知

下周一(8月9日)下午1点至2点, 留学聊天室“新西兰之夏”将邀请新西兰怀卡托大学校长 Peter Oettli 先生向大家介绍畅谈在怀卡托大学学习和生活情况。

## New UK Visa Procedures Trade Lines for Appointments

Since July 20, the British Embassy in Beijing has been asking Chinese students who want to study in the UK to book appointments to file their visa applications.

*Beijing Today* invited Tony Mercer, director of visa operations from the British Embassy, to explain the changes and give a general introduction to the process of applying for a visa to the UK.

**Why have you changed your visa procedures?**

—Aya

Everyday, 400 to 600 students wait for their visas at the Embassy. We have to regulate the flow and make it easier and more convenient for people to apply. That is why we moved to a fixed-day drop-off system. The new process started on July 26. Appointments can be booked by phone by calling 8529 6072 or 8529 6079.

**What basic documents should I prepare for a visa?**

—monkeyking

We have a very good website. [www.uk.cn](http://www.uk.cn) It provides lots of good information about the documents you will be required to provide.

**What are some mistakes people make in applying?**

—monkeyking

Important first is that all documents provided are genuine.

Evidence of financial support should include documents showing parents' financial standing and evidence that sufficient money is available to pay for the course in the UK, including documents to demonstrate where those funds would come from.

From the intended college or university for study, you need an original letter setting out the nature and duration of the



The entrance to the UK Embassy's visa section at the Kerry Centre.

Photo by Photocom

course, the cost, whether fees have been paid and what arrangements have been made for preparatory study.

**If I have all the documents prepared, how many working days will it take to issue my visa?**

—kaira

You will receive a decision on the day you lodge your application.

**Can you tell us which intermediaries in Beijing have agreements with your office? Many of them promise 100 percent chances of getting visas.**

—gorrila

We have no agreements with agents. My advice is to obtain information via our website, [www.uk.cn](http://www.uk.cn), or visit the British Council Beijing Office at [www.educationuk.org.cn](http://www.educationuk.org.cn).

**How many student visas did you issue last year?**

—ringval.com

Last year, we issued around 30,000 student visas. At the moment, there are over 50,000 Chinese students studying in the UK.

(Edited by Zhang Nan)

### Ask Ayi:

**Q: Do universities in France provide accommodation? If not, where can students find places to rent? What are the costs like?**

—rabbit

A: Most French universities do not provide accommodation, so international students need to find places to live themselves.

Usually, you can get useful information from domestic agencies, or you can try to get information or arrange something through the Internet.

There are at least two websites worth checking out. One, [www.cnous.fr](http://www.cnous.fr), provides information on student dormitories, which generally cost around 100 to 300 euros a month. At [www.adele.fr](http://www.adele.fr), you can find information about more comfortable housing that costs on average 300 to 500 euros per month.

**Q: I am applying to a French university and want to apply for scholarships and financial aid. Will that have a negative impact on my application?**

—adics

A: French universities usually do not provide scholarships or financial aid. In some special programs, scholarships are offered to excellent students.

Generally speaking, there should be no influence on your application, but you'd better make clear to the university that even if there are no scholarships provided, you still would like to go there to study.

**Q: I am studying nursing at a professional college and will graduate next June. I intend to study in Canada for a bachelor's degree. Do you think I could get such a chance and get a visa?**

—blueocean

A: Canadian universities do not often accept students from professional college. You may be better off getting a degree in China.

However, if your college is highly ranked in China and your scores are excellent, you may have a chance to get into a Canadian university.

A solid financial situation and high scores on the TOEFL or IELTS language tests will also support your application.

If you are suitably qualified, you can apply to go directly into third-year level undergraduate courses in Canada.

On the other hand, if you have not done too well in college and do not have a good command of English, you will have to start from first-year level courses.

(Edited by Zhang Nan)

### Donation Opens New Chapter in China's Russian Learning

By Zhang Nan

Chinese university students learning the Russian language can look forward to many more education resources to help in their travails thanks to a recent donation.

Last Friday, a shipment of novels and other books in Russian and two computers with Cyrillic keyboards and Russian-ready software were given to the Chinese Association of Teachers of the Russian Language and Literature (CATRL) by Russia's Eltsin Fund and the Embassy of the Russian Federation.

"This is a nice start to co-operation between Russia and China in Russian language teaching," Liu Limin, CATRL president and deputy director of Capital Normal University, told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday.

More than 6,000 students are majoring in Russian at the 65 universities across China that offer the specialization. "The books will be distributed to those universities and put in their libraries' collections," said Liu.

Vladimir B. Mantusov, Eltsin Fund president, said on Friday. "This is the first time we have done something like this in China and we hope to do more in the future."



By Joel Kirkhart

With around half the tickets to the Athens Games unsold, there is still plenty of opportunity to arrange a last minute Olympic adventure to Greece. Those that choose to skip such a trip can at least get into the Athenian spirit by indulging in Greek food, an ancient though sometimes overlooked cuisine that offers many exotic pleasures.

Greek is no newcomer to the world culinary scene – its cooking traditions can be traced back over 4,000 years and include the world's first known cookbook, *Gastronomia*, written 23 centuries ago. Standing as it does near the junction between Europe and Asia, Greek cuisine has developed its own styles while embracing influence from westerly and easterly neighbors.

Greek food derives its rich, pure flavors from emphasis on fresh seasonal ingredients, plenty of herbs and spices (most common are oregano, thyme, mint and rosemary) and distinctive local materials, particularly olive oil. That healthy oil, pressed fresh by many families in their homes, is a key to the cuisine, lending its fruity, light flavor to nearly every dish in the Greek culinary pantheon.

When it comes to meat, Greece is best known for its lamb, cooked myriad ways. Among the most famous dishes are *souvlaki*, cubes of grilled, seasoned lamb served atop rice or with pita bread for wrapping. A more fast food-like variant is the *gyro*, a sandwich based on heavily spiced, processed lamb slow cooked on a turning vertical spit and served in strips.

For big holidays, Greeks will roast a whole lamb slowly over fire until the skin is crisp, smoky and salty, the meat succulent and full of flavor. On more regular occasions, smaller legs are roasted, a delicious treat that can be had in Beijing (see review at right).



Moussaka

Lamb or beef is also the key ingredient in the casserole dish *moussaka*, a layered affair of seasoned ground meat, strips of eggplant or zucchini, tomatoes and a topping of creamy, custard-like béchamel sauce. It is very complicated to make from scratch, but greatly rewarding to any chef brave and perseverant enough to try.

The Mediterranean Sea yields ample seafood, used with special distinction in the regional cuisines of the beautiful Greek islands. Vegetables come grilled, steamed, sauteed and in salads, many of which feature such fabulous Greek products as artichokes, olives and feta,



Greece, from Athens to the gorgeous island Santorini, is known for its history, beauty, and spectacular food.

# Greek Gastronomy

a famed goat's milk cheese that is sharp, salty and delectable.

Rice is a primary starch, sometimes made into pilaf laced with spices and nuts. Greeks bake many forms of bread, probably the best known of which is the thin pita. Among Greece's celebrated treats are pasty pies wrapped in layers of crisp and buttery wafer-thin *phyllo* pastry and filled with spinach and feta (called *spanikopita*), chicken and mushrooms, lamb and leeks, and other delights. Phyllo is also the base of many rich desserts, such as *baklava*, where the pastry layers are laden with honey syrup and nuts.

A properly-done Greek meal should be a long, slow session, optimally including plenty of appetizers (called *mezedes*) to grab at while chatting and sipping on wine or *ouzo*, a licorice-flavored liquor that is sweet, thick, potent and an acquired taste. The Greeks' long-held custom of extended liquor-fueled social gatherings even gave the world the word "symposium" which literally translated means drinking with company.



**Recipe: lima beans Greek style**

1 package frozen baby lima beans, or 500 grams fresh  
1 cup water

3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil  
2 tbsp chopped fresh parsley  
1 tbsp minced garlic  
1/2 tsp salt

Add beans, water, 2 tablespoon oil, half parsley, garlic and salt in a medium size sauce pan and cover tight. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally until beans are tender, around 20 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste and transfer to serving dish. Sprinkle remaining olive over top.

Makes four servings.

**Recipe: lamb souvlaki**

3 pounds boneless leg of lamb, cut into 2-cm cubes  
1/3 cup lemon juice  
3 tbsp olive oil  
Salt, fresh ground pepper to taste  
1 tbsp fresh oregano or 1 tsp dried  
3 garlic cloves, minced  
1 small onion, minced  
2 red peppers, cut into 2-cm pieces  
1 large white sweet onion, cut into eighths

Put meat in a bowl. In another bowl, mix lemon juice, oil, salt, pepper, oregano, garlic and minced onion to form marinade and pour over meat. Cover and chill several hours or preferably overnight, turning several times.

Thread meat onto skewers, adding pieces of pepper and onion between lamb cubes. Barbecue over medium-hot coals, basting often with marinade, until well browned on all sides. Figure on about 15 minutes for medium-rare meat. Makes eight servings.



Baklava



Moussaka, 52 yuan



Greek salad, 38 yuan

Photos by Li Yue

## Grecian Eatin'?

By Sarah Bai

If you want to try Greek in Beijing, the choices are limited – very limited, in fact, to the Athena Restaurant off Sanlitun Beilu.

The restaurant has been around for years, but has to be looking forward to a pick up in business these days

with local interest in Greece peaked by the approaching Athens Olympics.

Athena covers most of the famous Greek food bases, but generally fails to dish up what could be called authentic, or even satisfying, versions.

A starter of *dolmades*, beef and rice wrapped in grape leaves, was topped by a nicely lemony, creamy sauce, but the filling was insufficiently seasoned. The cheese pies' meek wrappers let down their tasty stuffings of feta and tomatoes.

Further from the mark was the *tzatziki*, normally a delectable yogurt and cucumber based sauce served over meats. At Athena, it was served on as a salad on its own and was thick... really thick. The yogurt got points for being homemade, but was too sour to just eat with a fork. An order of pita for dipping brought over floppy pancakes that looked much more like tortillas – strange considering pitas are actually pretty available in this city.

At least two classic Greek entrees showed similar mediocrity. The gyros platter came with lamb meat that suffered from underseasoning and seemed to have been fried, giving it a not unappealing, but not quite right, crust.

The *moussaka* was heavy on the ground beef, light on the eggplant and not nearly as rich and soothing as it should be as the king of Greek-style comfort food.

What the restaurant does do right is stuff off the grill. There is leg of lamb, and whole fish grilled fresh and simple that look magnificent. Even a simple plate of grilled vegetables was cooked remarkably well in little more than olive oil, salt and pepper to let their natural flavor ring true.

Arguably the aspect of Athena that is most reminiscent of Greece is the decor. The stark white walls, matched with swaths of opposing blue and yellow, seem straight from the Greek isles, a vibe cemented by plenty of striking photos of Mykonos, Athens and other parts of the country.

These days, the restaurant is trying to capitalize on the Olympics with a promotion in which consistent diners are rewarded with theme prizes. But at 4,000 yuan of meals earning a mere t-shirt, you'd have to really like the food to score the top gifts. Most customers will be less jazzed by that deal than the spread of free desserts, including decadent *baklava*, on offer every day through August.

Overall, Athena is not a bad choice for a change of pace and not overly expensive with judicious ordering – but its distance from authenticity means Beijing is still a long way from having a real taste of Greece.

**Where:** No. 1 Sanlitun Xiwujie, Chaoyang **Open:** 11 am - midnight **Tel:** 6464 6036 **Average cost:** 100 yuan per person



There's no faulting Athena for its Greek feel.

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## Personal Classifieds

### Accommodation

New apartment for rent. 3 bedroom apartment near Xizhimen subway station (5 minute walk), 122 square meters furnished, home appliances, 24-hour hot water, security, underground parking, satellite TV and broadband Internet access. US \$950 per month, minimum one year lease. Contact: xuepingyilang122@sohu.com

Apartment in Donghuashi Beili for rent. 2 bedrooms and sitting rooms, 2 toilets, 120 square meters. Newly decorated with full set of electric appliances and furniture, 24 hour hot water, security, parking lots available. Contact: 6718 4331

2 bedroom apartment in Wangjing Garden, Chaoyang, for rent. 105 square meters, TV, refrigerator, washing machine, air con, parking, half year at least. 2,800-3,000 yuan per month. Contact: Ms. Zhang, 13671098276 or email: zn6708@yahoo.com.cn

### Language Exchange

Singaporean man would like to find a language partner to practice oral Chinese and can help her/him improve English. Email: freddie2816@yahoo.com.cn, Tel: 13120274297

A Chinese young girl who is honest, enthusiastic and extroverted is looking for a language partner who is a native English speaker as a true friend. She appreciates

the beauty of English and enjoys the different and fresh cultures and customs. If you want to know more about China and Chinese people, or if you want to learn Chinese, Please email to: aileenlee66@yahoo.com.cn

Kathy, female, 24, English B.A., actress, fluent in both Mandarin (native speaker) and English, has five year's experience teaching foreigners Chinese, would like to get more foreign friends who are interested in learning Chinese. Contact: 6566 5772, zhoulmanyang@yahoo.com.cn

An ordinary employee seeks a friend who wants to learn Chinese. In return I will teach him or her English. Contact: jianggangmin@walker.sina.net

A girl, Miki, 25, wants to improve her English and make friends with native English speakers. Contact: 8681 0396 or email: mikisun@263.net

Alen wants to find some native speakers who are down-to-earth, good hearted, honest, as English partners and to make good friends. Email: alen67892000@yahoo.com.cn, Tel: 8659 2919

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## Performance

### Broadway Classic

The 1965 movie *The Sound of Music* has been a favorite in China since it was released here two decades ago. Now, the Von Trapp Family Singers, fresh from a sellout season in Shanghai, are to perform all your favorite songs from the musical in Beijing.

**Where:** Beijing Exhibition Hall Theater, 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xicheng **When:** 7:30 pm, August 13-20 **Admission:** 200-1,200 yuan **Tel:** 6834 4384

### Heavenly Voices

Beijing Mulan Children's Chorus is gearing up for a concert conducted by Ni Danxia. The program includes *The Trout*, *Snow on Rivers*, *Jasmine Flower*, *Great Sea*, *My Homeland* and *Eight Little Geese*.

**Where:** Forbidden City Concert Hall, in Zhongshan Park **When:** 2 pm, Saturday **Admission:** 10-100 yuan **Tel:** 6559 8285

### A Life in Art

An *Artist's Life* by Puccini is to be staged by vocal musicians from the China National Opera House.

**Where:** Forbidden City Concert Hall, in Zhongshan Park **When:** 7:30 pm, August 8 **Admission:** 10-100 yuan **Tel:** 6559 8285

### Swan Puppets

China Puppet Art Theatre presents *Swan Lake* as a puppet play. The story has been modified somewhat, with Odette becoming the guardian of a forest.

**Where:** Poly Theatre, Dongshishitiao **When:** 7:30 pm, August 11-15 **Admission:** 40-280 yuan **Tel:** 6506 6345

### Peking Opera

With a history of over 200 years, Peking Opera combines acting, dialogue, music, dancing and acrobatics. In acting and acrobatics, different roles follow different patterns, all exaggerated, suggestive and symbolic. The actions of opening a door, going up the stairs, rowing a boat or climbing a hill, for instance, are portrayed purely through the mime-like movements of the actors without the help of props.

**Where:** Chaoyang Theater, 36 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang **When:** 7:20 pm daily **Admission:** 120-200 yuan **Tel:** 6417 7845

## Exhibitions



### New Millennium Gallery

An exhibition of 60 works by six modern oil painters from different provinces of China – Wu You, Yu Zupei, He Yongshun, Xiao Fangkai, Jiang Jing, Zhang Shuzhen, Zhang Zhaohui, and Guo Lingling, with a variety of painting styles. Their works focus on modern life in China.

**Where:** Diyang Buliding 2, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang **When:** till August 13 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8453 6193

### Young Girl's World

An oil painting exhibition by nine-year-old Yang Chunbaixue will begin at the Qin Gallery on August 12. The gifted young artist first picked up a paint brush at the age of one and started winning prizes the next year. The oil paintings are characterized by a fluid style and wide use of strong colours.

**Where:** Qin Gallery, 1-1 E, Huaweili, Enjoy Paradise Chaoyang **When:** 9:30 am – 7 pm, August 12-31 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8779 0461



Directed by Andrew Adamson, Kelly Asbury, and Conrad Vernon, starring Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, John Lithgow, John Cleese, Julie Andrews, Antonio Banderas, Rupert Everett and Jennifer Saunders. Shrek, Donkey and Princess Fiona go on a whirlwind of new adventures, with more fairy-tale favorites to lampoon along the

way. After battling a fire-breathing dragon and the evil Lord Farquaad to win the hand of Princess Fiona, Shrek now faces his greatest challenge: the in-laws.

**Where:** UME International Cineplex, (Huaxing Guoji Yingcheng), 44 Shuangyushu Kexueyuan, Haidian **When:** opens August 10 **Tel:** 6261 2851

## Movies



### Voci

Directed by Franco Giraldi, starring Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, Gabriele Lavia. A journalist becomes involved in the tragic life of a beautiful woman. Italian with English subtitles.

**Where:** Italian Embassy, 2 Dong'erjie, Sanlitun, Chaoyang **When:** 7 pm, Thursday **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6532 2187

### Infernal Affairs I (Wu Jian Dao)

Directed by Andrew Lau and Alan Mak, starring Andy Lau, Tony Leung, Anthony Wong, Eric Tsang, Edison Chen, Shawn Yue, Carina Lau, and Kelly Chen. Yan, a veteran cop, has spent a decade undercover, infiltrating crime syndicates. Meanwhile, Ming, a Triad member planted into the police force in his teens by crime boss Sam, has been promoted to the rank of sergeant. Now, Yan is tired of pretending to be an amoral gangster and wants his normal life back, meanwhile, Ming yearns to become a real cop and shed his role as a Triad spy.

**Where:** Cherry Lane Movie Theater, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang **When:** 8 pm tonight and Saturday **Admission:** 50 yuan **Tel:** 13501251303



### The Twins Effect 2

Directed by Patrick Leung and Cory Yuen, starring Donnie Yen, Jaycee Chan, Chen Po-lin, Qu Ying and Jackie Chan. With a significantly higher budget than last year's *The Twins Effect*, the second installment is very different from the first. It tells the epic tale of a young prince's dangerous journey through the mythical land of Huadu, and of how he finally leads an army against the forces of the tyrannical Empress.

**Where:** UME International Cineplex, (Huaxing Guoji Yingcheng), 44 Shuangyushu Kexueyuan, Haidian **When:** opens Sunday **Tel:** 6261 2851

## Jams

### Inner Affair

DJs: Anson and Ashiey (Raying)

Anson (head DJ): his electric trance beats will leave you in a state of constant bliss as the music files through your brain. Let your spirit go.

Ashiey: A pioneer of progressive house, he has led the way since joining the techno scene a short while ago. He has DJed

at several of the biggest dance parties in England. His romantic and irresistible style has guided the techno scene throughout Europe for the past few years.

This is one party you don't want to miss out on! It's sure to be packed. The best techno music in China, all provided by world-renown DJ Raying. Come on! Let the music move your soul.

**Where:** First floor, Qiankun Plaza, Sanlitun Xiliujie,

Chaoyang **When:** 10:30 pm, Saturday **Admission:** free **Tel:** 13611150335 or 8454 0899

### Celebrate the Athens Olympics: Free Greek Dessert in Athena

In order to celebrate the Athens Olympics and reward our customers, from Aug 1-31, all customers can try free Greek desserts, including baklava, chocolate cake and walnut cake.

**Where:** 1 Sanlitun Xiwujie, Chaoyang **When:** till August 31 **Tel:** 6464 6036

### Asian Cup

China booked a place in the final of the Asian Cup thanks to a 4-3 penalty shoot-out victory over Iran at Workers' Stadium Tuesday evening. The hosts will meet defending champions Japan in Saturday's final at Workers' Stadium. It will be China's first appearance in the final of the Asian Cup since 1984.

**Where:** Workers' Stadium **When:** Saturday, 8 pm **Admission:** 200-2,000 yuan **Tel:** 6501 6655



## Activities

### Bj Hikers

The villagers from Xichangyu have to hike over the mountain for two hours to catch the train. For the first part of our walk, we follow their trail. It starts with a climb to a windy ridge where we can enjoy the fantastic view on both sides of the pass. As we come down the mountain, the old village comes into view with its rusty colored stone walls. This is a very well cared for and clean village. The main industry is growing fruit, which is then stored in man-made caves in the hillside.

**Where:** Miyun and Pinggu counties, north east of Beijing **When:** August 8, pick up 8 am at Lido Hotel outside Starbucks **Cost:** 150 yuan (100 yuan for children under 12) **Tel:** 13910025516 **Tour:** Contemporary Chinese Artist Village

Songzhuang is a village where many freelance contemporary artists have settled, transforming the village houses into art studios. Take a half-day trip with Chinese Culture Club to check out some of the houses and talk with some established artists and appreciate their different styles of art.

**Where:** catch Chinese Culture Club bus at 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang **When:** Sunday, 4-7 pm **Admission:** 80 yuan (includes transportation and English-speaking guide) **Tel:** 8462 2081

### Chinese Cookery Class

English narration, small groups, everyone guaranteed a chance to chop and cook. Includes one cold dish as an appetizer, and two stir-fries: *boluo gulaorou* (pineapple and pork), and *ganbian sijidou* (dried stir-fried green beans).

**Where:** Chinese Culture Club, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang **When:** 1-3 pm, August 12; repeated: 7:30-9:30 pm **Tel:** 8462 2081

## TV and Radio Highlights

HBO	
6 Friday	
The Vector File	11:25 pm
7 Saturday	
Final Destination 2	9:00 pm
8 Sunday	
Primal Fear	11:20 pm
9 Monday	
Men In Black II	9:00 pm
10 Tuesday	
Red Dragon	8:00 pm
11 Wednesday	
Bulletproof	9:00 pm
12 Thursday	
Spider-Man	10:40 pm

### CCTV-9 Monday – Friday

Around China	6:30 am
Cultural Express	8:30 am
Nature and Science /	
Chinese Civilization	11:30 am
Cultural Express	2:30 pm
Nature and Science /	
Chinese Civilization	5:30 pm
Dialogue	7:30 pm
News Updates /	
Asia Today	8 pm
Sports Scene	11:15 pm

### Saturday

Travelogue	9:30 am
Center Stage	11:30 am
Sunday	
Sports Weekend	10 am
Documentary	10:30 am
This Week	12:30 am

### China Radio International 91.5 FM Monday – Friday

Easy FM Afternoon	2-7 pm
Fun in Beijing	5-5:30 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm
Saturday	
Music Memories	8:05-11 am
Euro Hit 40	12:05-1 pm
Music Sans Frontiers	6:05-8 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm
Sunday	
Music Memories	8:05-11 am
Jazz Beat	6:05-8 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm

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By Zhang Jianzhong



Singapore is truly a city for all weather and all tastes. Although it covers only 618 square kilometers, there is much more to do and see than can be squeezed into a three or four day visit. Singapore is very much accustomed to tourists, and everything is so well signposted that it is easy to get around without a guide. Public transport is clean and easy to use and, if you do need directions, most people speak fluent English and the majority also speak excellent *Putonghua*.

# Singapore Stop-over

By Jane Ram

The Singapore experience starts with arrival at Changi airport, an airy, orchid-filled space, which functions so fast that your luggage is usually on the carousel by the time you have whizzed through immigration formalities. On the way into the city you might think you are driving through a park: the road has been lavishly planted with tropical foliage and bright flowering plants to give visitors a delightful first and last impression of this city-state.

Singapore is justly proud of its reputation as a garden city. Roses would be impossible, but orchids and other exotic plants thrive in the year-round tropical climate. The Botanic Gardens just got even better with completion of the Ginger Garden near the world-famous orchid section. Go early or late in the day to avoid the fierce heat.

The Singapore Zoo was one of the world's first to develop uncaged enclosures. The animals live in beautifully landscaped, naturalistic settings. Most tropical animals are at their most active when it cools down after dark, which is why the Night Safari Park is such a spectacular experience. Like the zoo, it has no visible barriers, while artificial lighting creates the effect of saturation moonlight, enabling you to watch animals feeding and playing, seemingly unaware of their human audience.

Singapore's third great wildlife attraction is the Jurong Bird Park. The newest addition, Lorikeet Valley, is a huge aviary holding 1,000 lorikeets. Their plumage is as colorful as a handful of jewels and the birds are so friendly that they will happily sit on your hand or your shoulder, especially if you offer them something to eat.

## Heritage

Singapore has many buildings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Raffles Hotel is a favorite Singapore icon and this splendid place should be on every itinerary. Nearby are some of the grandiose former government buildings that have been given a new lease of life. The central post office has been transformed into the luxurious Fullerton Hotel. The former Parliament house has recently been turned into an arts venue, complete with the original seats of senior ministers. You can even try Mr. Lee Kuan Yew's chair for size. The Asian Civilizations Museum

has been created out of the former central government office. Don't miss some of the small-scale renovations in Chinatown and the former Arab quarter, where modest shop houses have been brightly painted and transformed into trendy offices, boutiques, cafes and bars.

## Shopping

Orchard Road is the place for brand name luxury goods and all kinds of up-market shopping. For gold jewelry, check out one of Singapore's legendary success stories: Mustafa started as a shoestring operation and has burgeoned into a huge 24-hour store spread over two buildings linked by a bridge. The first building stocks everything from footwear to spices, while the glittering new building specializes in jewelry and electronics.

Small stores around Arab Street overflow with handicrafts from Indonesia, handwoven fabrics from India and all types of fragrant essential oils. If you ever wanted to develop your own perfume, this is the place to try out all the possible ingredients and combinations. Sellers are knowledgeable about their wares and very helpful without being too pushy.

Local bookstores are vast treasure troves for English language readers. Taking advantage of the comfortable seats, people can (and do) spend an entire day browsing. Late opening hours are routine – until almost midnight at weekends. The largest bookstores have cafes attached, so you can continue browsing while you drink and eat.

## Museums

The Asian Civilizations Museum is Singapore's pride and joy. This is where you begin to understand how and why the place developed into such a multi-cultural melting pot. Set aside at least two hours to enjoy the major exhibits on the first floor. The museum is air-conditioned, which makes a welcome change from the midday heat.

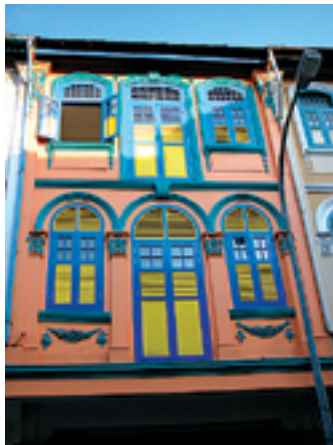
Singapore also has a number of smaller museums, including the Chinatown Heritage Centre, which fills in detail about the early waves of immigrants from Fujian province, the life they came from and the life they found in their new home. Don't miss the Peranakan Legacy exhibition at the Armenian Street branch of the ACM. This provides a fas-



Exotic tropical plants



Feeding lorikeets



Renovated shopfront in China town



Tiny beads used in Peranakan hand embroidery

inating insight into the lifestyle of one of Singapore's most influential groups – the mixed Chinese-Malays with a history dating back to the 14th century. This museum is a great prelude to visiting the East Coast, with its many Peranakan cafes and small shops specializing in jewelry, clothing, batik, beaded slippers and other items from a bygone age.

## Eating

As you explore Singapore, it quickly becomes apparent that eating is a very serious pastime here. Open-air hawkers centers are justly famous for their local cuisine, but these are best at night. By day the air-conditioned food courts in shopping malls offer somewhat pallid alternatives.

Regular customers will travel long distances to patronize a favorite among the many small open-sided cafes in the older parts of the city. These modest establishments usually confine their fare to a few specialties, plus coffee or ginger tea. Look for *dosai*, *murtabak* and mutton *biryani* around Little India and Arab

Street; on the East Coast go for *laksa*. For more range, visit one of the many Indonesian-style cafes, where you make your own selection from ready-prepared plates laid out buffet style. Fellow diners will advise you as to which ones to try and even offer to share with you if you seem interested in what they are eating.

Pungent, delicious, stinking and heavenly – the great debate about the notorious yet highly prized durian rages unabated. Even if you are repulsed by the odor, you should sample this fruit at least once. Perhaps the best introduction is a durian pastry, sold all over Singapore, with arguably the finest at the east coast cafes.

For fresh seafood, including curried crab, head for tried and true East Coast Seafood Centre not far from Changi airport. Floors and walls are bare concrete, service is slapdash, and ambiance is provided by the high decibel chatter of excited fellow diners and the sounds of the nearby sea. But the food is indisputably great.

For unique flavors, try the modest Café Bom Vento on the East Coast, where Gladys Kwek specializes in what she calls Eurasian food. Ask about today's specialties, and be

sure to try Devil's Curry and Winged Bean Salad.

Fans of Beijing's Green T. House will feel at home in another brainchild of food and design guru, Jin R, who was responsible for the concept, the menus and the decor at My Humble House. Whether you order a multi-course meal or a bowl of noodles, this restaurant in the durian-shaped Esplanade-Theatres on the Bay gives a memorable dining experience.

Spas are important to the Singapore lifestyle these days. The most beautiful is undoubtedly the Spa Botanica on Sentosa Island, where the garden environment forms an ideal place for an all-day retreat. By contrast the Valley Spa is in the heart of town. The decor is basic, but treatments, using the best Italian products, are superb. (www.spavalley.com)

## Accommodation

When money is no object, there's no contest, it has to be the ultra deluxe Shangri-La Valley Wing. S\$600 (2,900 yuan) up.

Chinatown has many small hotels, but "1929" is the star with the trendiest rooms in town. Singles from S\$100 (480 yuan). Book a Garden Suite where you can bathe

under the stars, surrounded by flowering vines. Spend what you save on your room on an outstanding meal at the hotel's bijou restaurant, Ember – fine European food with a few Asian touches. Be sure to book ahead. (www.hotel1929.com)

Green surroundings and low prices are the great attractions at no-frills Mount Emily. Better still it's only a few minutes from the heart of the city. Dormitory beds at S\$22 (105 yuan), twin rooms with bathroom from S\$68 (330 yuan). (www.hangouthotels.com)

On a tight budget, S\$18 (86 yuan) gets you a dormitory bed with clean linen, hot showers, all-day breakfast and broadband at BetelBox Hostel. (www.betelbox.com)

## Tips

When shopping in Singapore, remember you can claim back sales tax at the airport, but you must ask the shop to fill in the right form. At Changi airport, show your purchases to the inspector who will stamp your form before you go through the departure area. Your cash refund can be collected at a special counter after immigration.

**Getting there:** A Beijing-Singapore return airfare with Air China costs 3,150 yuan in August.

Photos by Jane Ram

Tonglicheng

Local Escapes

By Chu Meng

This week *Beijing Today* introduces a picturesque spot to escape the city's summer heat named Shimenshan.

Shimenshan is 20 kilometers north of Huairou, and 10 kilometers north of another popular tourist site, Yanqi Lake. With its combination of picturesque mountains and natural waterfalls, Shimenshan has long been a famous tourist destination for visitors from Beijing and further afield.

It is not the mountain itself that most visitors find so immediately entrancing, but a mirror-like lake that lies in front of it. Fed by streams big and small flowing down from the surrounding mountains, the lake is a natural swimming pool, just the place to cool off after the journey from downtown.

Beyond the lake, you come to the foot of the green mountain. It is not as precipitous as Huangshan, and

not as awe-inspiring as Taishan, but its delicate and soft beauty is a welcome antidote to the concrete jungle of Beijing. An easy 40-minute climb brings you to most of the mountain's key sights. The most beautiful spot, Jiemeiquan (Sister Spring), is a large spring that converges with a smaller one to form a pretty waterfall above a rock... miss it, and you will miss the spirit of Shimenshan.

Other sights include Shimen Cave, Camel Peak, Fishing Garden, Wentian Rock, Monkey Mountain and Diecui Peak. Shimenshan is also a popular place for beginners to practice survival training, due to its moderate grade. In fact, a number of companies have chosen it as a base for providing their employees with such training courses.

**Accommodation:** 180 yuan for double-beds room, 210 yuan for triple-bed room.

**Getting there:** Take bus 936 or

916 from Dongzhimen at 7:10 or 10 am. Change to a minibus at Huairou central bus station to Shimenshan. Avoid the private buses at Huairou, as they invariably overcharge tourists.



Jiemeiquan

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